Action Comics
COMIC HIGH'S BRAND
つぐもも
15
浜田よしかづ

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ささやくつぐつ

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浜田よしかづ

Presented by Yoshikazu Hamada

Tsugumomo by HAMADA Yoshikazu

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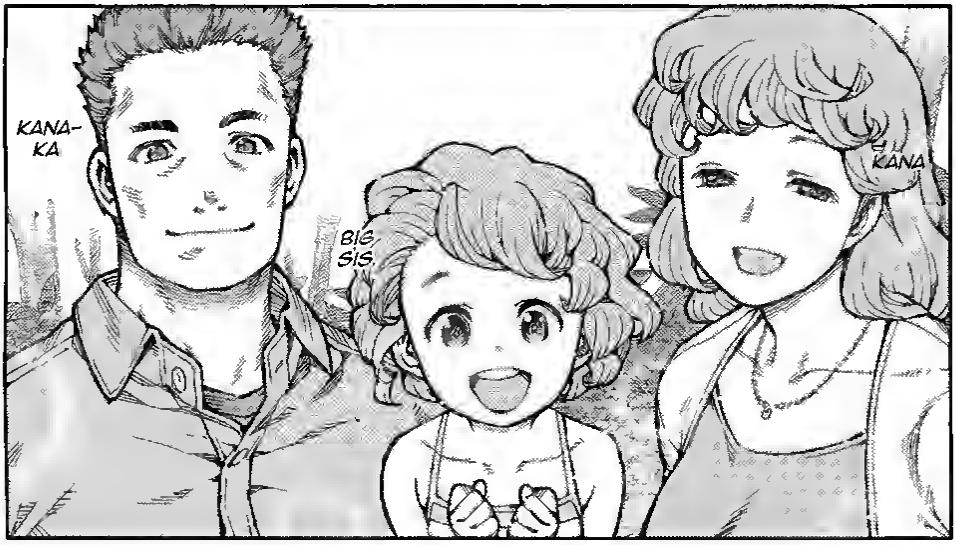
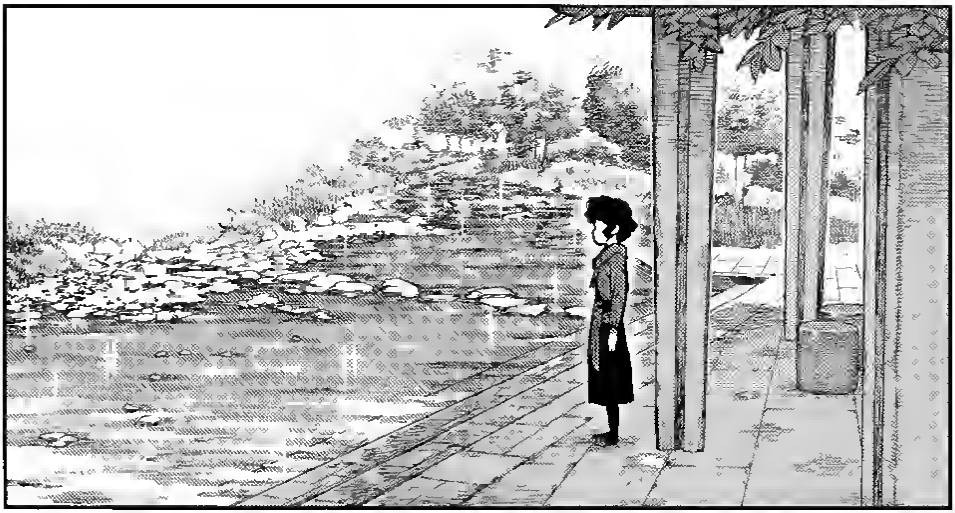
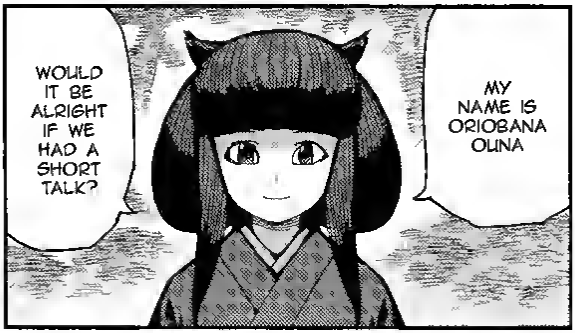
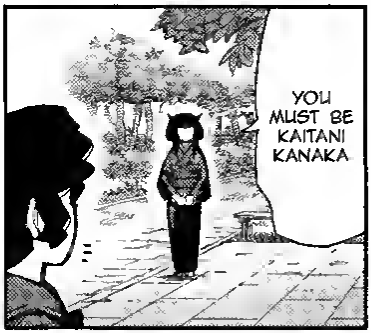
I CAN'T OUR CHILDREN ARE ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR AND THE YEAR AFTER
RATHER, CAN'T YOU SPARE THE EFFORT, BROTHER?
YOUR KIDS ARE ALREADY GROWN-UPS
I'M SINGLE RIGHT NOW I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME
PUTTING THAT ASIDE, WHO'S GOING TO PAY HER AN ALLOWANCE IN PLACE OF HER MOTHER?
ISN'T THERE SOMEONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FAMILY.
WHAT A BOTHER, INDEED..

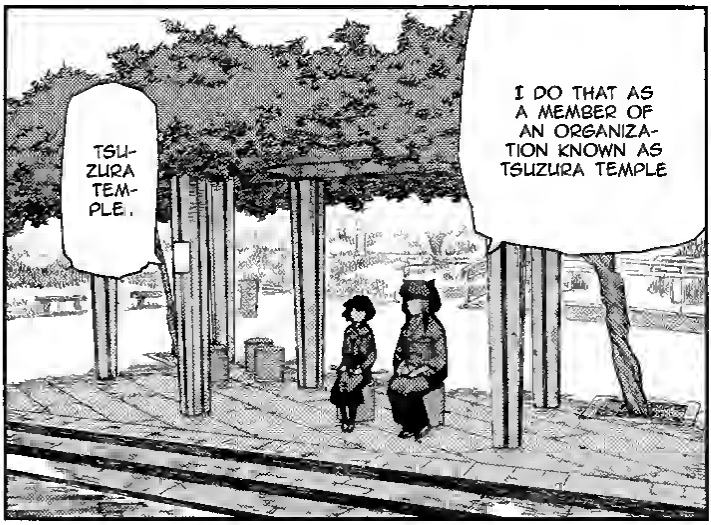
KANAKA DIDN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR, THOUGH
SHE'S JUST A CHILD. IT'S AMAZING
NO, NO SHE'S SUFFERING FROM SHOCK, SHE'S UNABLE TO REACT NATURALLY


KANAKA
BIG SIS
KANA




WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT IF WE HAD A SHORT TALK?
MY NAME IS ORIOBANA OUNA


YOU MUST BE KAITANI KANAKA


TSUZURA TEMPLE.
I DO THAT AS A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS TSUZURA TEMPLE

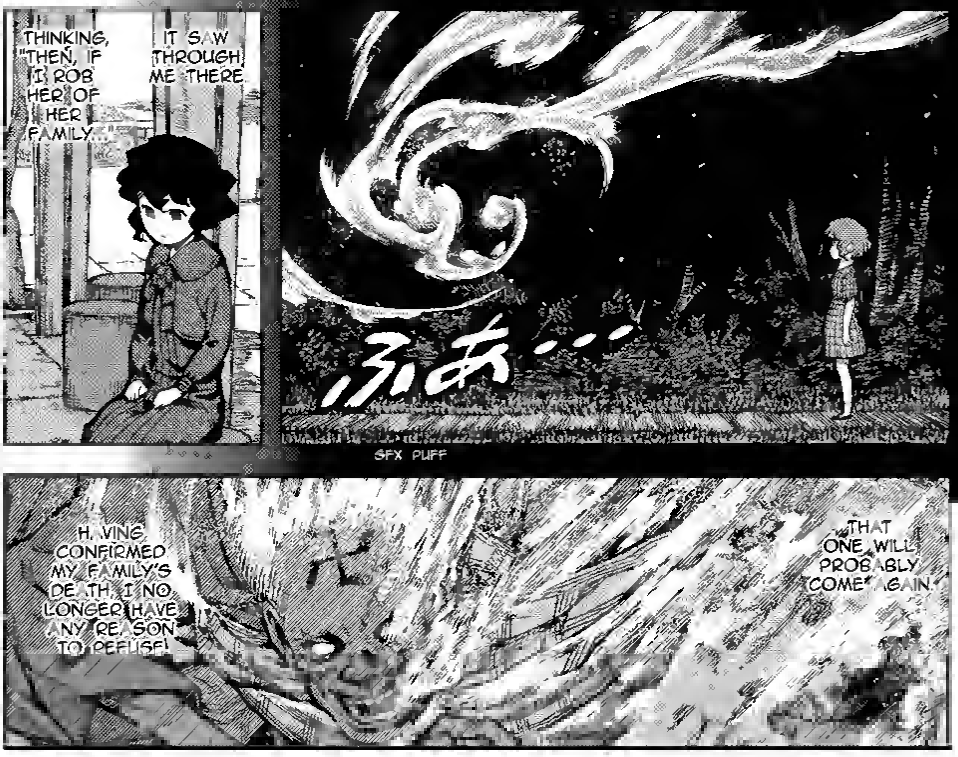
YES
EXORCISING MONSTERS AND ABERRATIONS...?

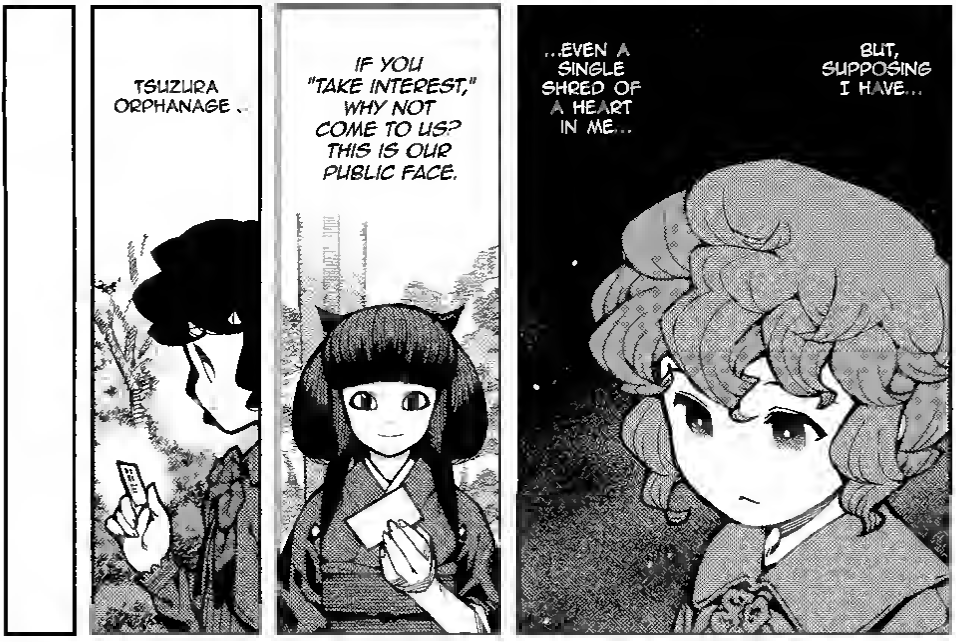
AS A RESULT OF OUR FAILURE TO CATCH THE TARGET, INNOCENT LIVES WERE LOST.
JUST RECENTLY, WE CAME TO EXORCISE A YOUKAI THAT HAD APPEARED IN THIS AREA, HOWEVER...
WE ARE TRULY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.
THE LOSS OF YOUR FAMILY WAS BECAUSE OF OUR INEPTITUDE.
THAT'S RIGHT, KANAKA.
INNO-CENT LIVES...
SFX: STAND UP
IT WAS MY CARE-LESSNESS.
FROM LONG AGO I'VE BEEN AWARE THAT I EASILY CATCH THE EYE OF "THOSE KINDS OF THINGS"
IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
...NO

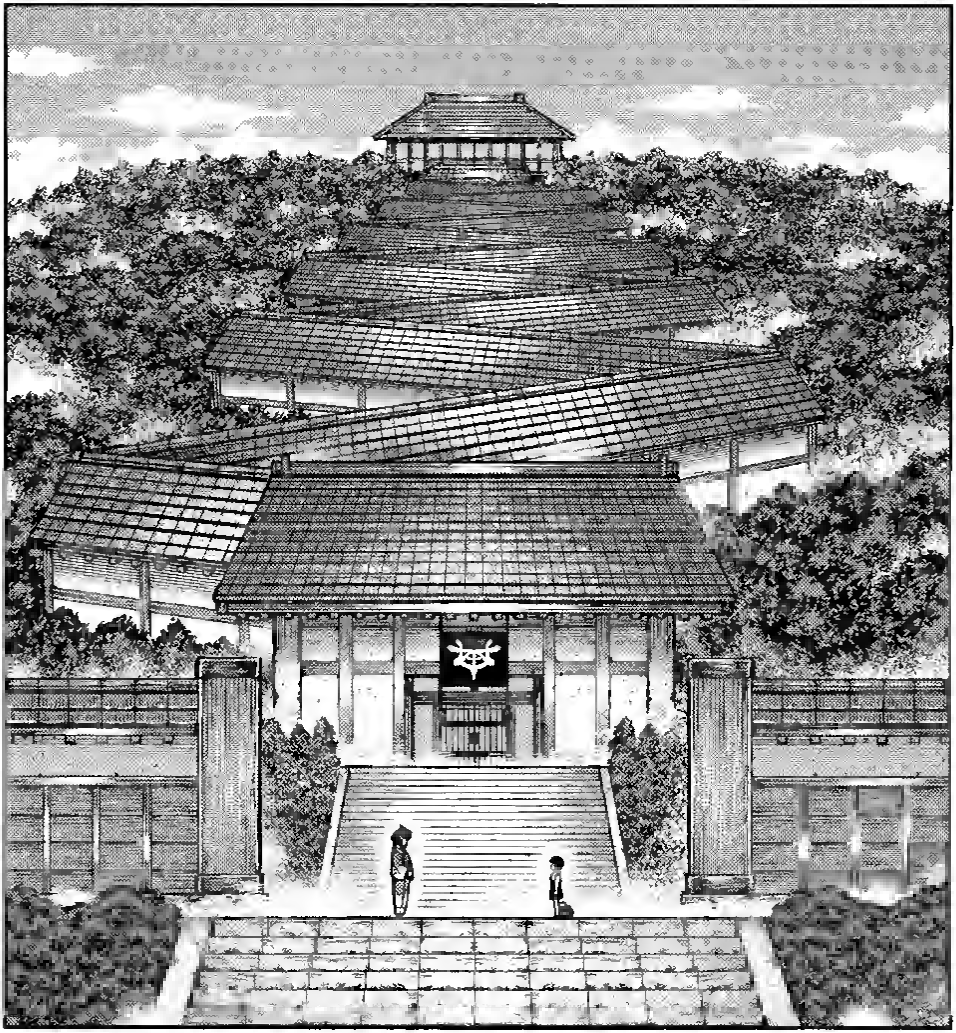
SFX WHOOSH
ヒュ〜〜
SFX FOOM

THERE IS INDEED NOTHING.
NOTH-ING AT AAAALL.
THERE'S NOTH-ING AT AAAALL INSIDE YOUUU
GIVE ME YOUR BODYYY...
THEEEN, IT'S FINE, RIIIGHT?
I DON'T FEEL SAD ABOUT MY FAMILY SUFFER-ING.
BUT I DON'T FEEL IT.
THAT IS A BAD THING.
MY FAMILY WILL SUF-FER.
...I WILL CEASE TO BE.
IF I GIVE MY BODY TO THIS ONE...

I HAVE NO HEART.
...I REFUSE.
LEAVE.
IT'S CONVENIENT FOR THE ONES FROM OVER THERE.
SO, IT'S CONVENIENT.
AHHH, IS THAT SOOO?
HE HE...


THINKING, "THEN, IF I ROB HER OF HER FAMILY..."
IT SAW THROUGH ME THERE.
ふぅ...
SFX PUFF
HAVING CONFIRMED MY FAMILY'S DEATH, I NO LONGER HAVE ANY REASON TO RESIST.
THAT ONE WILL PROBABLY COME AGAIN.

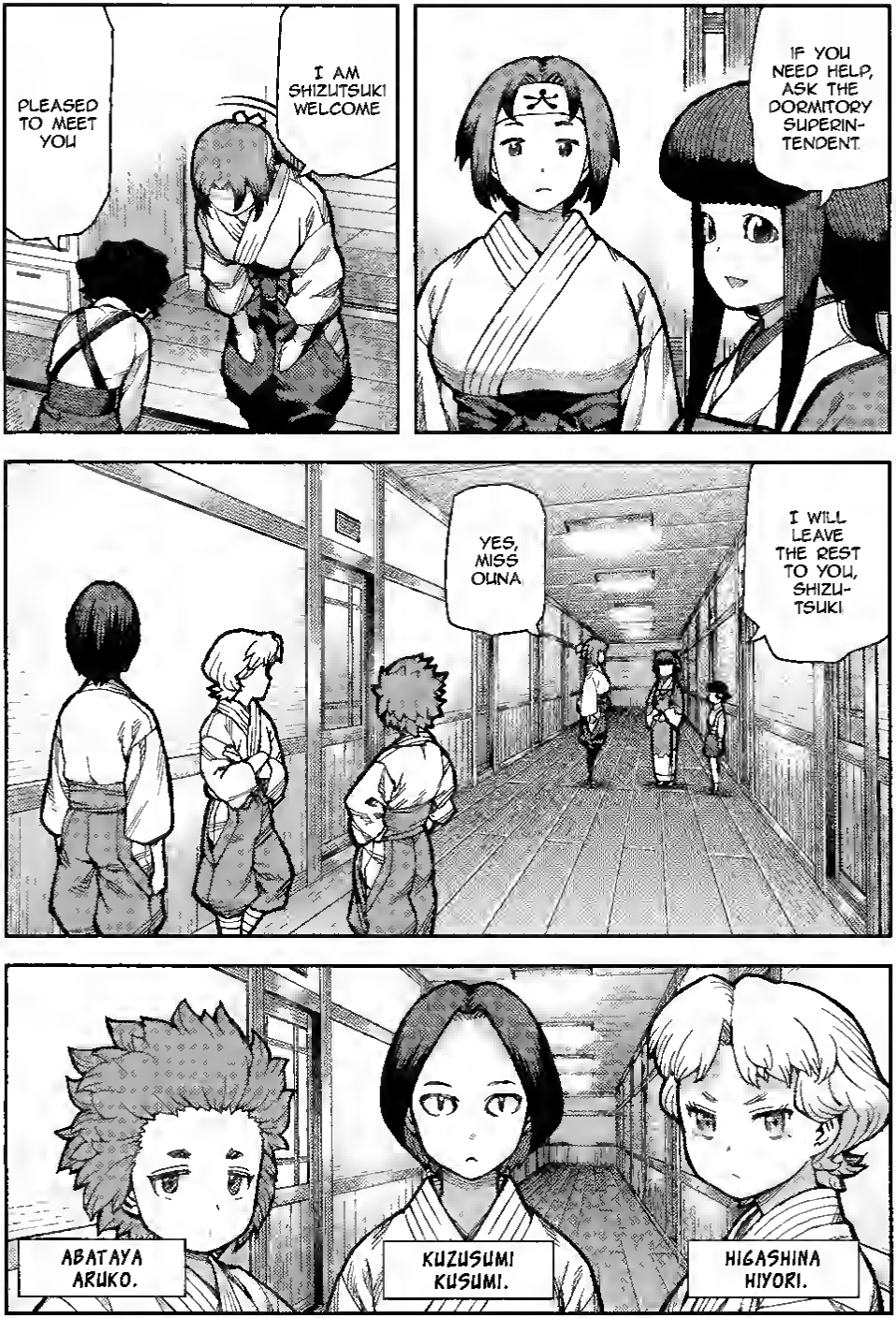

TSUZURA ORPHANAGE...
IF YOU "TAKE INTEREST," WHY NOT COME TO US? THIS IS OUR PUBLIC FACE.
...EVEN A SINGLE SHRED OF A HEART IN ME...
BUT, SUPPOSING I HAVE...

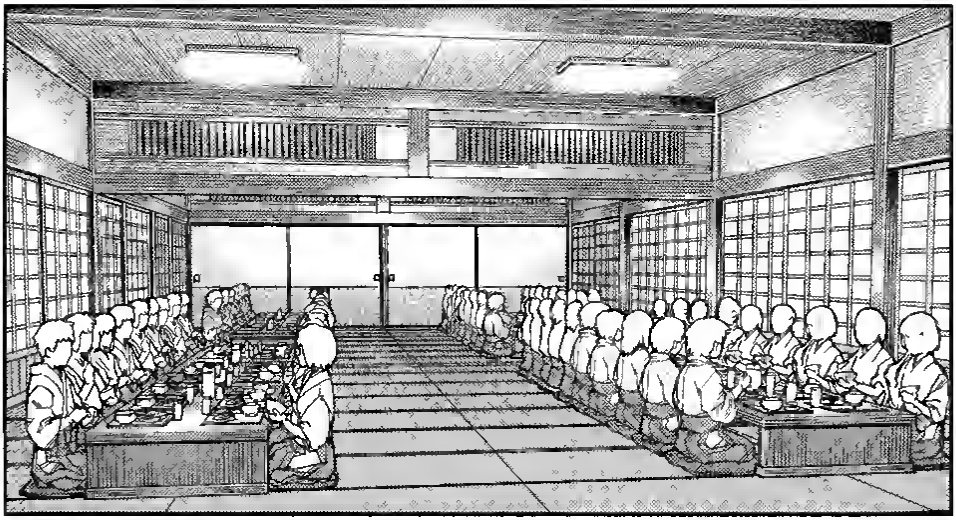


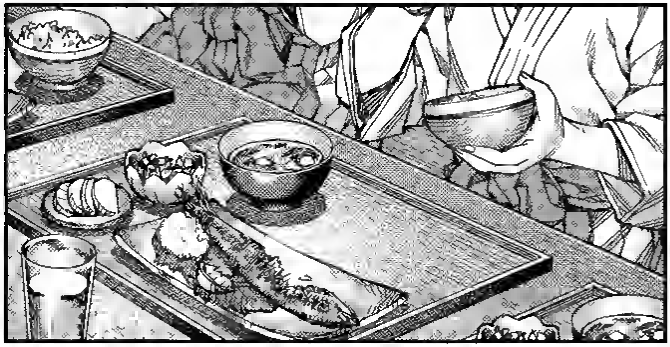
...MAYBE I WILL FEEL SOMETHING IN MY HEART.
IF I TAKE REVENGE...

...
WELCOME, KANAKA. SO YOU ARE INTERESTED?

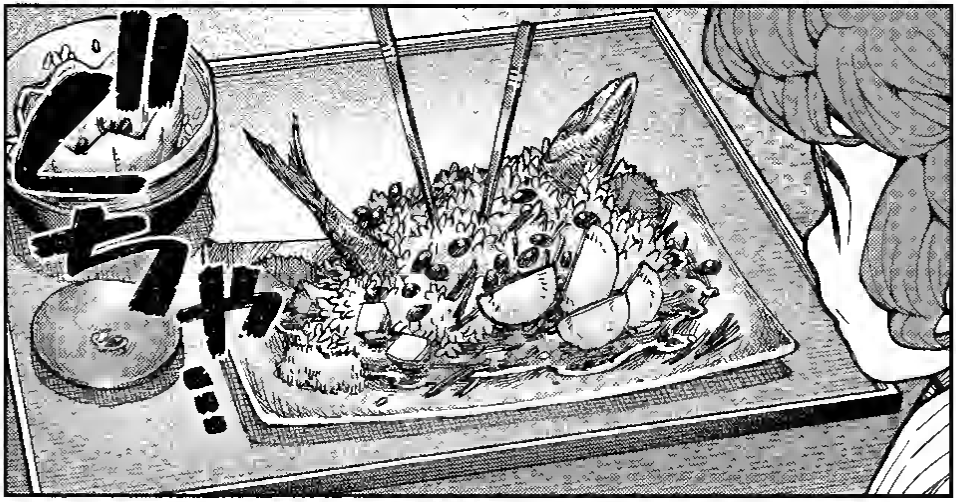
IF YOU CAN SHOW MASTERFUL RESULTS AND PASS YOUR EXAMINATIONS, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY BE RECOGNIZED AS AN EXORCIST
YOU WILL BE A CADET
AT TSUZURA TEMPLE WE TRAIN AND DISPATCH "EXORCISTS," WHO EXORCISE ABERRATIONS
I KNOW I INVITED YOU HERE, BUT I MUST SAY IT IS FIERCELY COMPETITIVE
THIS IS YOUR ROOM
IT IS A FOUR PERSON ROOM, SO YOU WILL BE SHARING IT IF THE NUMBER OF CADETS INCREASES


I AM SHIZUTSUKI WELCOME
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK THE DORMITORY SUPERINTENDENT.
YES, MISS OUNA.
I WILL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, SHIZUTSUKI
ABATAYA ARUKO.
KUZUSUMI KUSUMI.
HIGASHINA HIYORI.

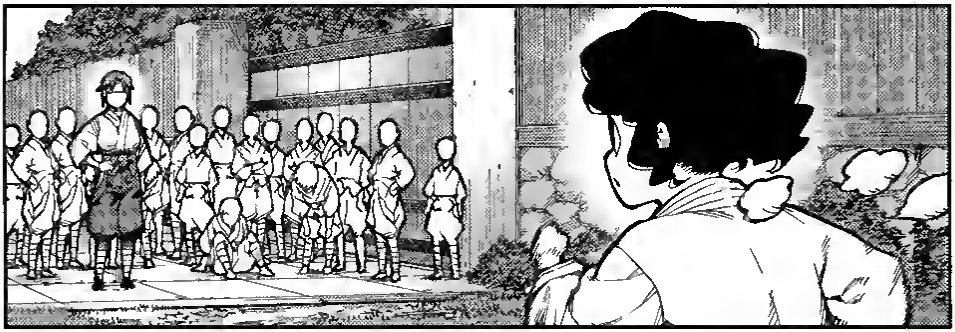




SFX MESSY



HOW-EVER...
SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS LIKE I'M NOT POPULAR WITH MY "COMRADES."
...
ぽくぽく
SFX MUNCH
IT DOESN'T LOOK APPETIZING, BUT EVERYTHING'S THE SAME ONCE IT'S IN THE STOMACH.
...THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT HARSH ENOUGH TO POISON IT.
!



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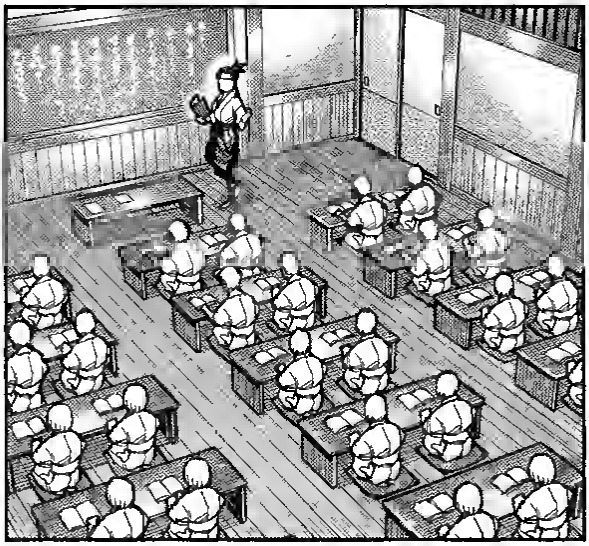
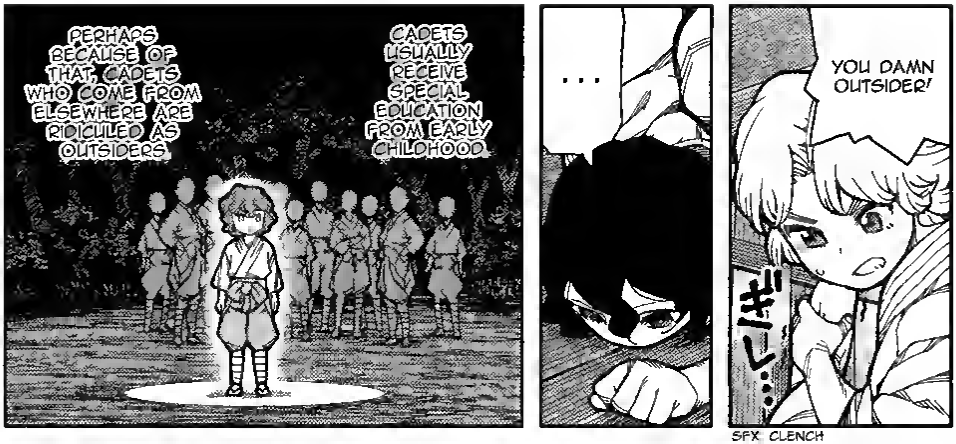
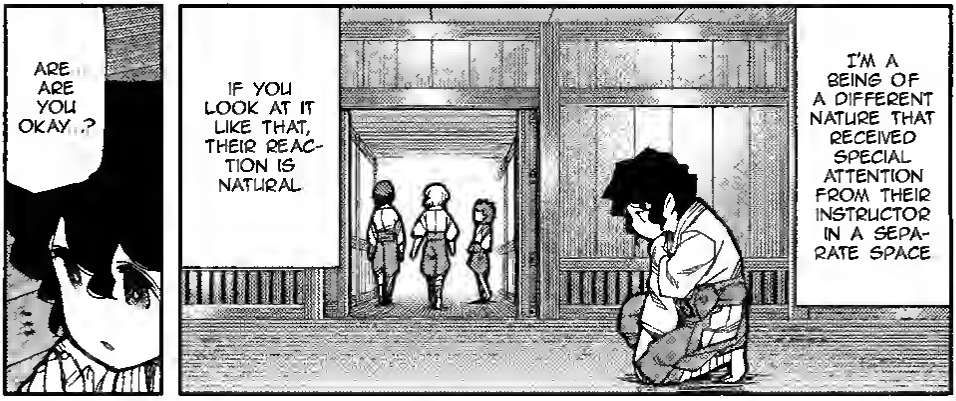
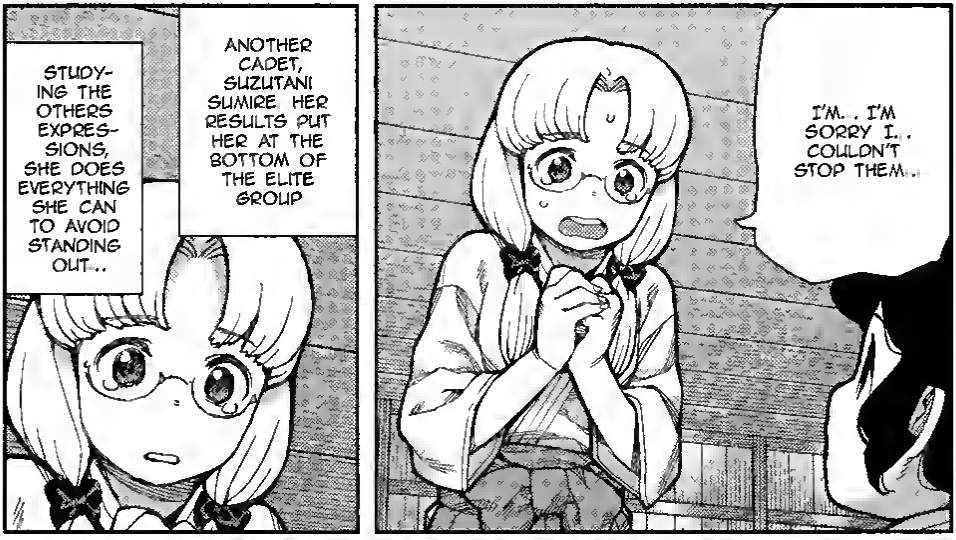


SFX SLAAAM
THIS IS A FITTING REWARD
YOU PROBABLY USED SOME CHEAP LITTLE TRICK
HOW DID YOU COZY UP TO MISS OUNA?
IN THE END, YOU'RE NOTHING SPECIAL, ARE YOU!


PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THAT, CADETS WHO COME FROM ELSEWHERE ARE RIDICULED AS OUTSIDERS.
CADETS USUALLY RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD.
...
YOU DAMN OUTSIDER!
ギリ…
SFX: CLENCH

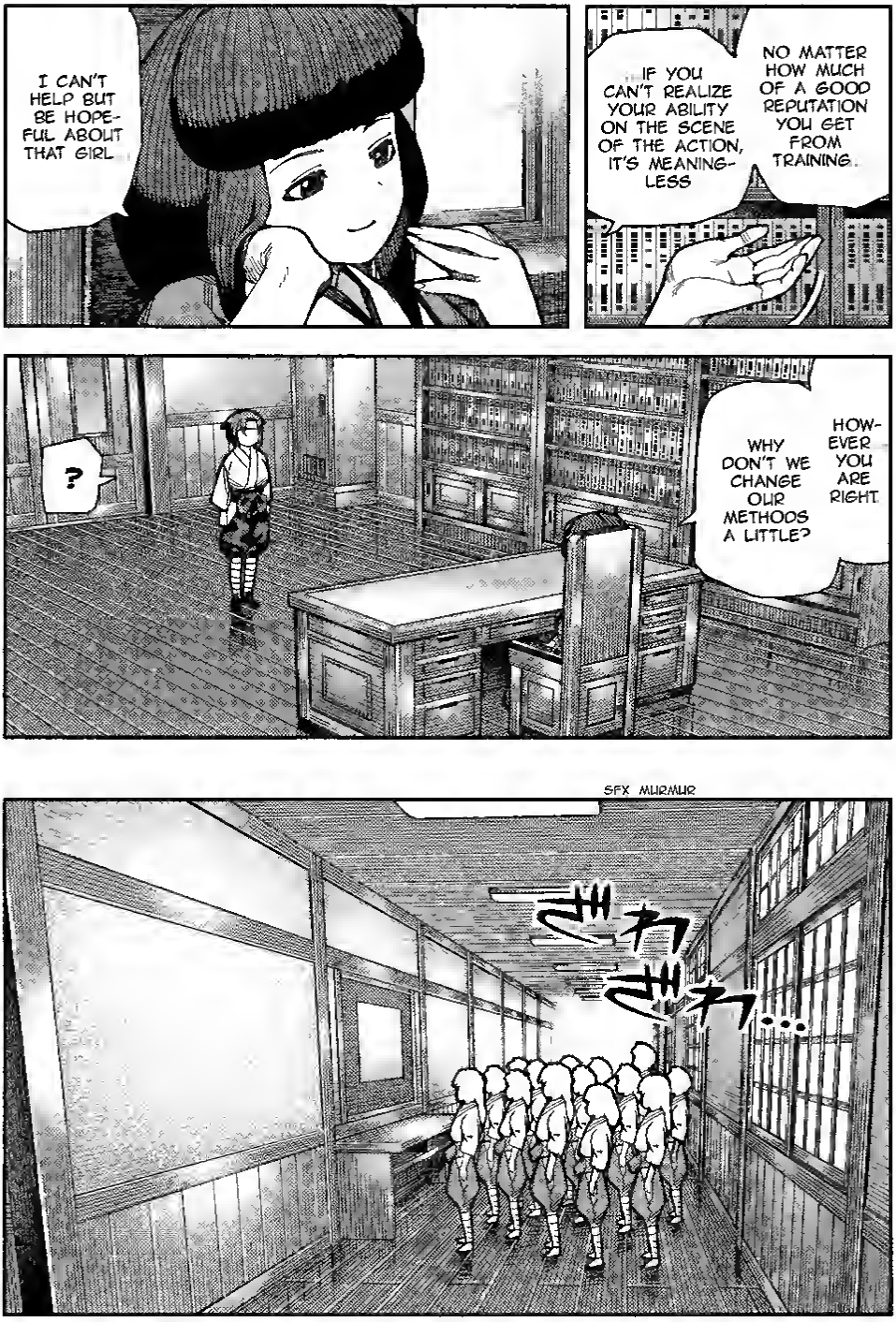

ARE... ARE YOU OKAY...?
IF YOU LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT, THEIR REACTION IS NATURAL
I'M A BEING OF A DIFFERENT NATURE THAT RECEIVED SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM THEIR INSTRUCTOR IN A SEPARATE SPACE

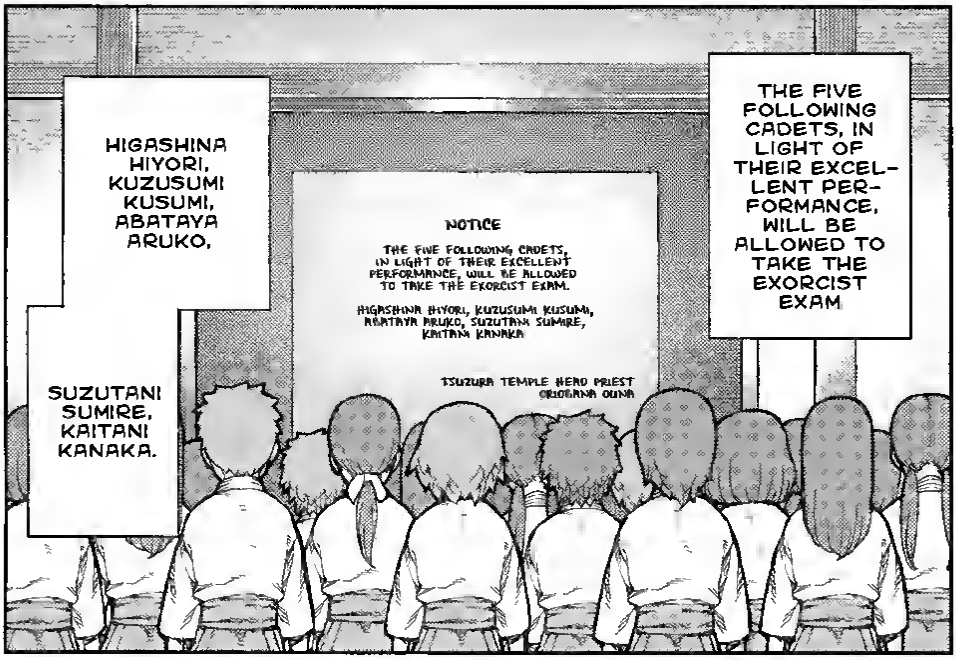

STUDYING THE OTHERS EXPRESSIONS, SHE DOES EVERYTHING SHE CAN TO AVOID STANDING OUT...
ANOTHER CADET, SUZUTANI SUMIRE. HER RESULTS PUT HER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ELITE GROUP
I'M... I'M SORRY I... COULDN'T STOP THEM...

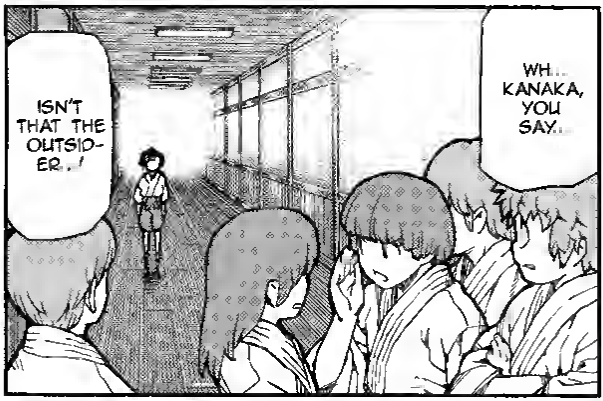
IN THE FUTURE, YOU'RE BETTER OFF STAYING AWAY
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH ME YOU MIGHT BE HARMED TOO
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
DON'T...
SFX STANDS
?
I ENVY YOU GUYS
...
I'VE HEARD OF THOSE FEELINGS, BUT I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY MEAN
LOOKING DOWN ON OTHERS TAKING PITY ON OTHERS

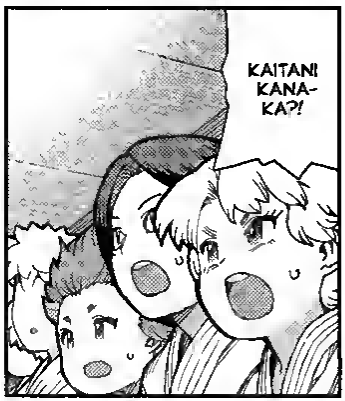
IS THAT SO..
YES, KANAKA HASN'T SHOWN MUCH OF A REACTION, BUT..
BULLYING?
SHE LACKS FIERCENESS
IN GENERAL, YOU COULD SAY SHE HAS A WEAK SENSE OF AMBITION
FURTHERMORE, HER PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN POOR
...
IT WOULD PROBABLY BE APPROPRIATE TO WEED HER OUT AT THE NEXT CHANGE OF TERM.

SFX CREAK
THE DAY THAT KANAKA BECAME AN ORPHAN...
キシ…
IT'S NOT THAT I THINK YOU ARE FAVORING HER, BUT...
WHY DID YOU ADMIT THAT GIRL IN THE FIRST PLACE?
SFX FOOM
...HIOKI FROM THE EXORCISM TEAM SAW HER
SFX WHIRL
...INDIFFERENTLY DODGED THE FIERCE PURSUIT OF THE KAZENBOU.
AMIDST THE SURGING HELLFIRE, SHE
SFX WHIRL
SFX WHIRL


I CAN'T HELP BUT BE HOPEFUL ABOUT THAT GIRL
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A GOOD REPUTATION YOU GET FROM TRAINING.
IF YOU CAN'T REALIZE YOUR ABILITY ON THE SCENE OF THE ACTION, IT'S MEANINGLESS
?
HOWEVER YOU ARE RIGHT
WHY DON'T WE CHANGE OUR METHODS A LITTLE?
SFX MURMUR

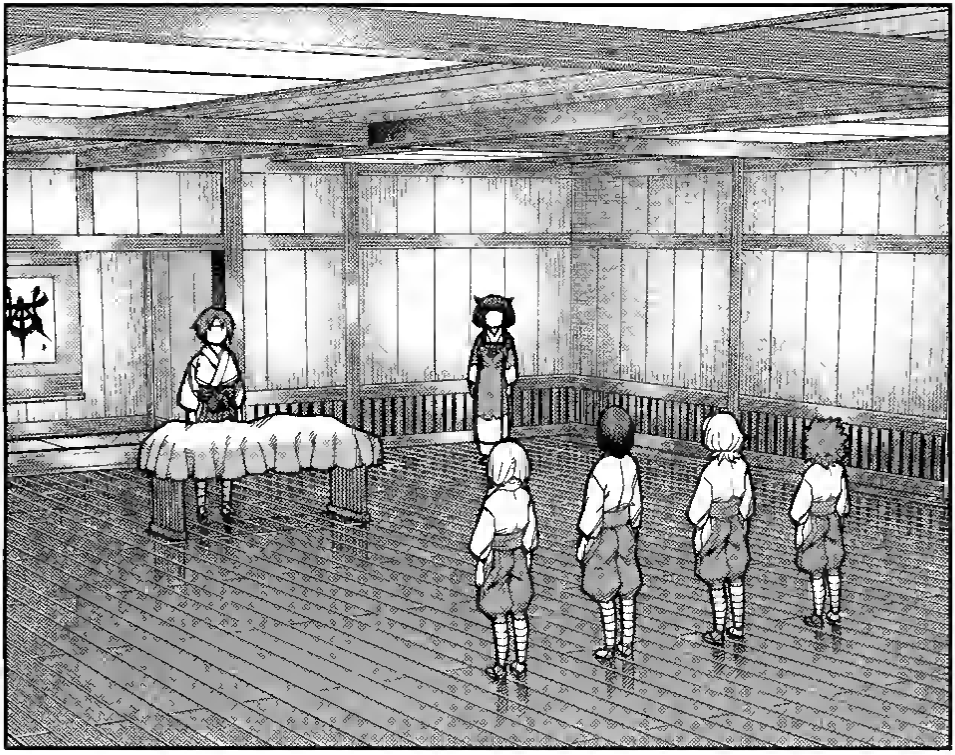

HIGASHINA HIYORI, KUZUSUMI KUSUMI, ABATAYA ARUKO,
SUZUTANI SUMIRE, KAITANI KANAKA.
NOTICE
THE FIVE FOLLOWING CADETS, IN LIGHT OF THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE, WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXORCIST EXAM.
HIGASHINA HIYORI, KUZUSUMI KUSUMI, ABATAYA ARUKO, SUZUTANI SUMIRE, KAITANI KANAKA
TSUZURA TEMPLE HEAD PRIEST ORIORINA OUNA
THE FIVE FOLLOWING CADETS, IN LIGHT OF THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE, WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXORCIST EXAM

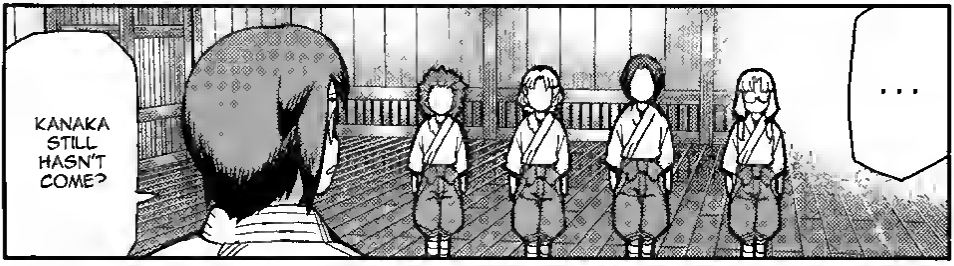

ISN'T THAT THE OUTSIDER..!
WH.. KANAKA, YOU SAY.

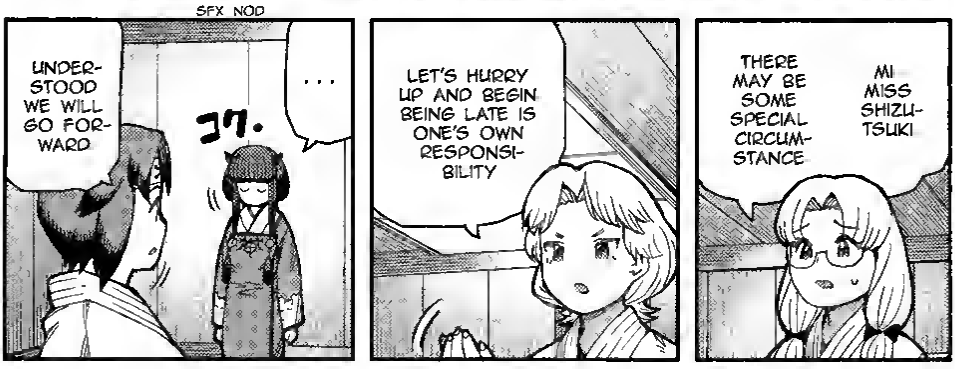

KAITANI KANAKA?!

...
SHE IS THE WORST.
SHE USED ANOTHER DIRTY TRICK..!

SFX FWUMP
SFX PAT PAT
パン パン
...?
SFX GRIT
SFX CREAK
ギュッ
YOU DID SOMETHING WRONG, KANAKA!
PLEASE REFLECT ON THAT IN HERE!
SFX SLIDE



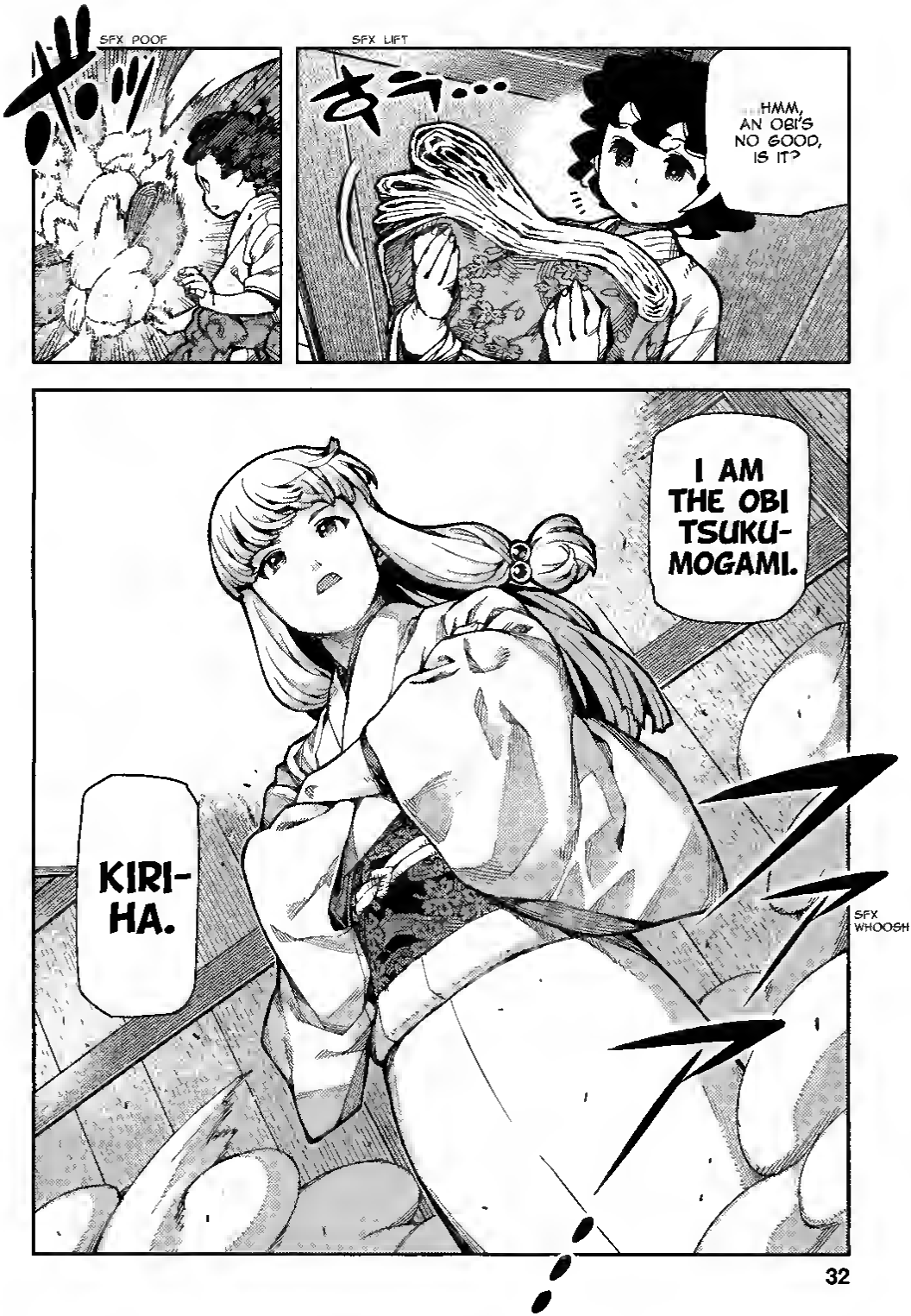

KANAKA STILL HASN'T COME?
...


SFX NOD
UNDER-STOOD WE WILL GO FOR-WARD
...
LET'S HURRY UP AND BEGIN BEING LATE IS ONE'S OWN RESPONSI-BILITY
THERE MAY BE SOME SPECIAL CIRCUM-STANCE
MI MISS SHIZU-TSUKI

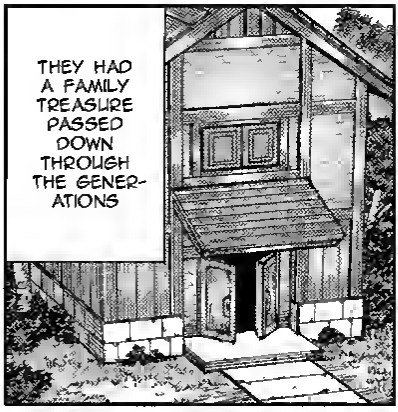
AS YOU KNOW...
EXORCISTS EMPLOY TSUKUMOGAMI TO EXORCISE ABERRATIONS
WITH YOUR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES, YOU GUYS ARE CONSIDERED QUALIFIED
YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO FORM A TEMPORARY CONTRACT WITH A TSUKUMOGAMI
IT'S TEMPORARY, BUT IT'S A RELATIONSHIP WHERE YOU WILL BE ENTRUSTING EACH OTHER WITH YOUR LIVES
THERE'S NO NEED TO GET WORKED UP, BUT CHOOSE CAREFULLY
DON'T BE TRAPPED BY SURFACE THOUGHTS
TRUST IN YOUR GUT FEELING
WELL THEN—
SFX FWIP
SFX GRAB

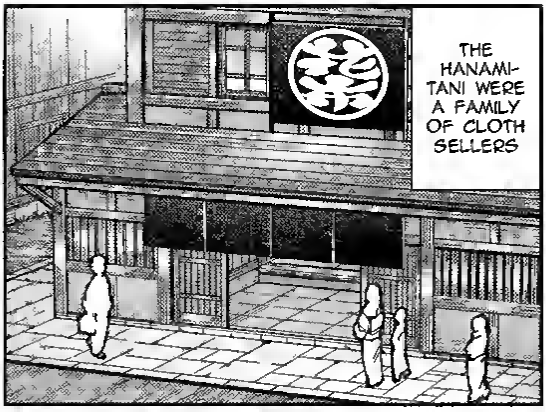
SFX SHUT
KANA-KA!
!
SFX RATTLE
I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE
NO PROB-LEM
I WONDER, CAN SOMEONE WHO CAN'T KEEP TRACK OF TIME KEEP TRACK OF ABERRATIONS?
EVERYONE'S ALREADY CHOSEN THEIR TSUKUMOGAMI, YOU KNOW?

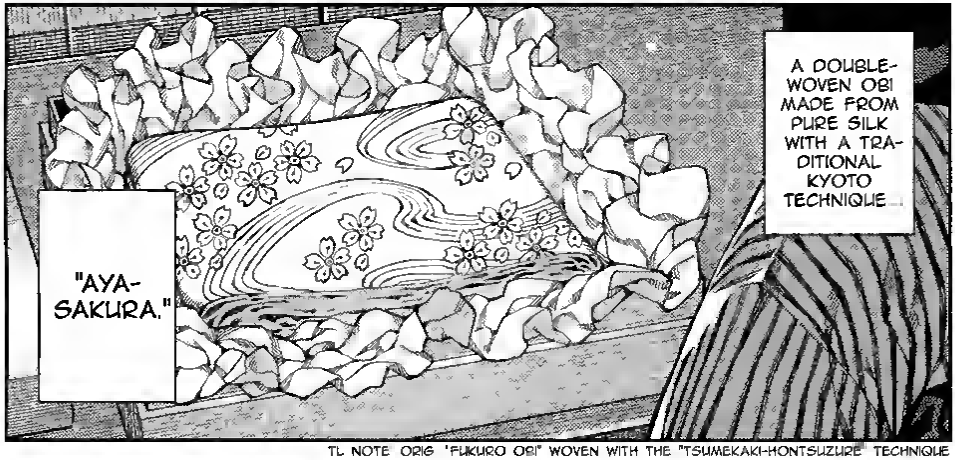
KANAKA, YOUR TSUKUMO-GAMI IS OVER THERE
!
. . .
AN OBI...
..HEHE.. AN OBI.. A KIMONO OBI..! CAN YOU FIGHT WITH THAT..?
FUFU, AHAHA HA!


SFX POOF
SFX LIFT
...HMM, AN OBI'S NO GOOD, IS IT?
I AM THE OBI TSUKU-MOGAMI.
KIRI-HA.
SFX WHOOSH

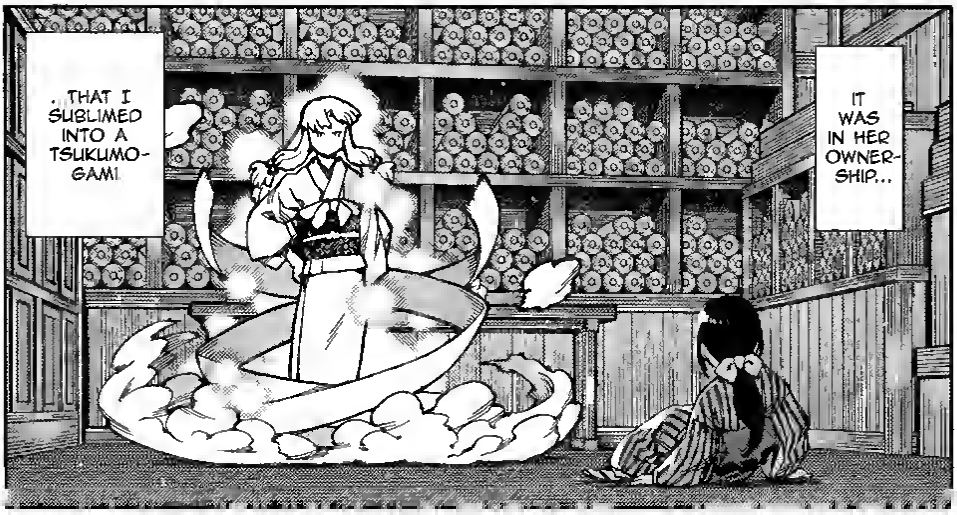
Chapter 73: Kanaka and Kiriha 2

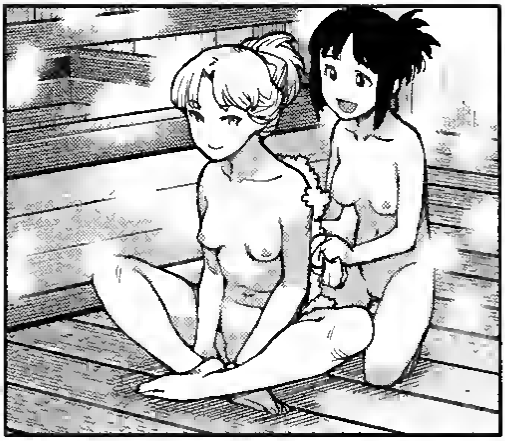


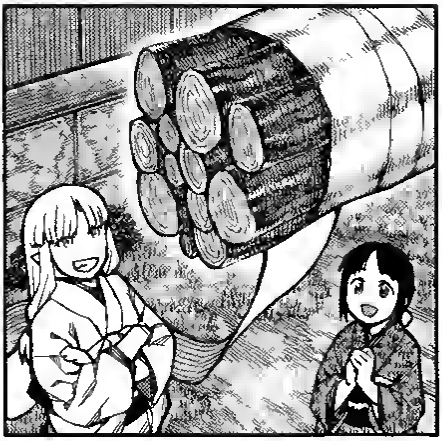




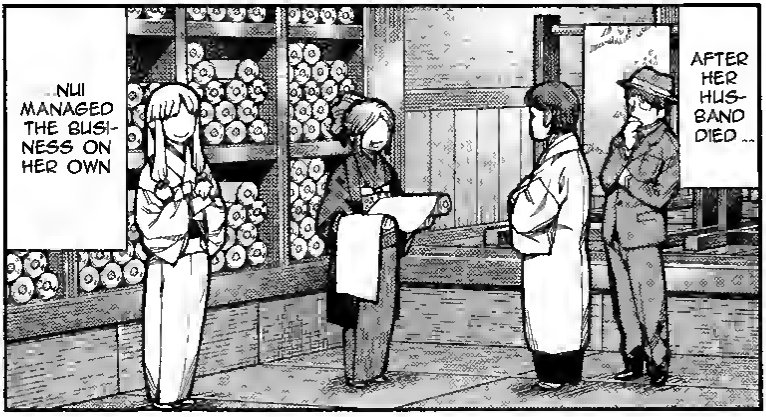
TL NOTE: ORIG "FUKURO OBI" WOVEN WITH THE "TSUMEKAKI-HONTSUZURE" TECHNIQUE

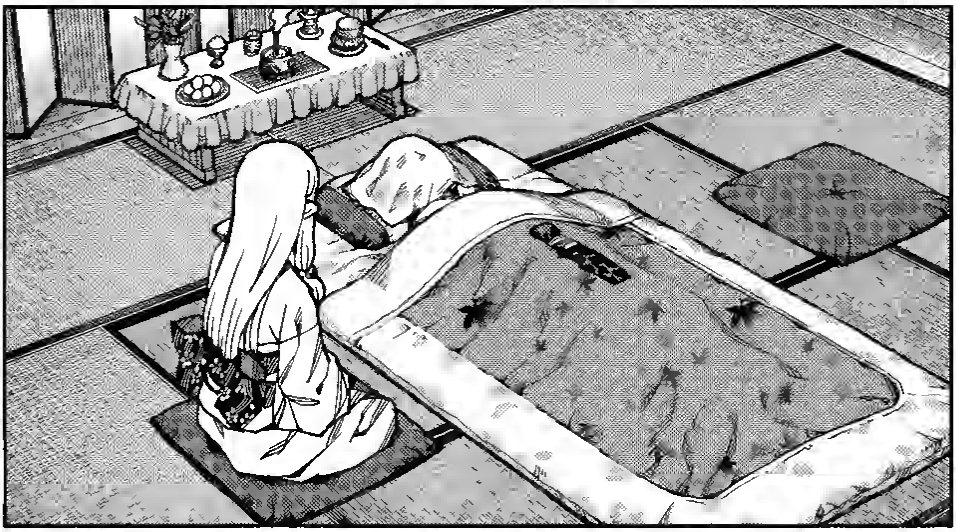

. THAT I SUBLIMED INTO A TSUKUMO-GAMI
IT WAS IN HER OWNER-SHIP...





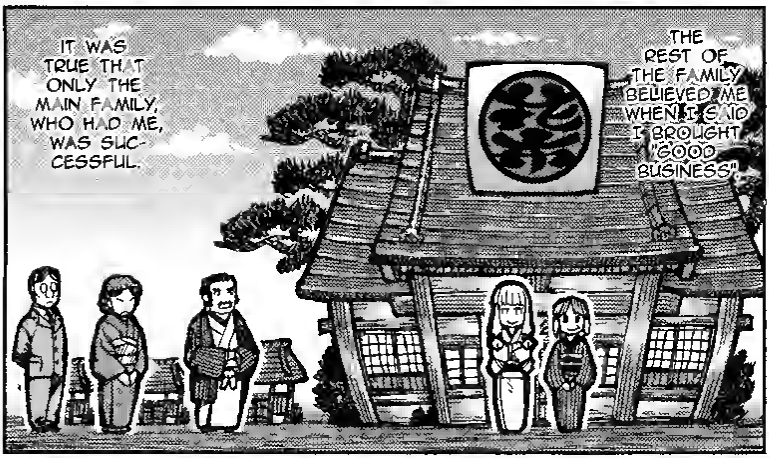
NUI LIVED TO THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE


NUI MANAGED THE BUSI-NESS ON HER OWN
AFTER HER HUS-BAND DIED ...



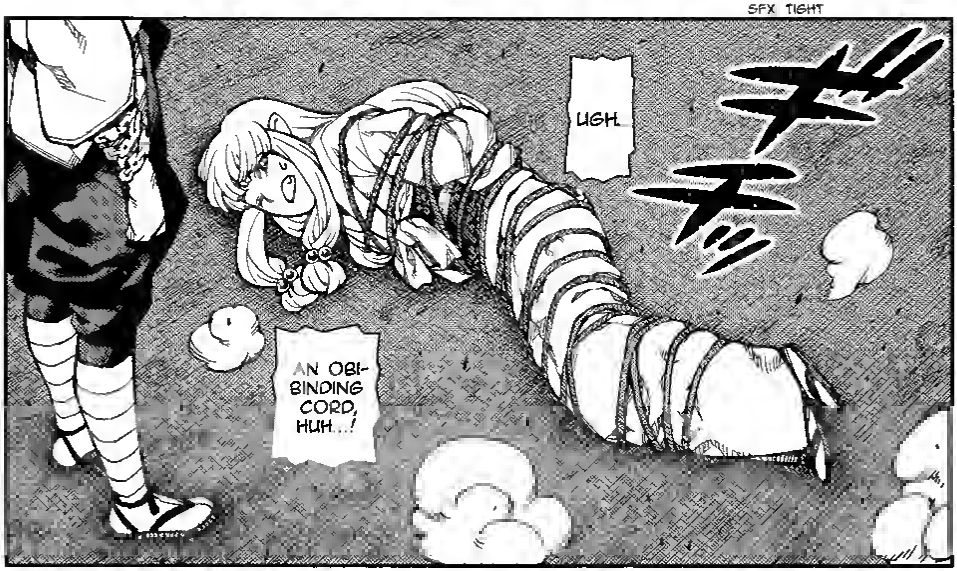
DONE PAYING YOUR RESPECTS?
HURRY UP AND CHOOSE YOUR NEXT OWNER.

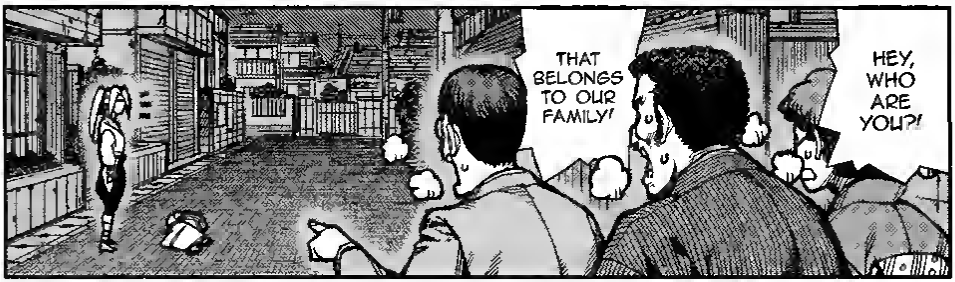
REST EASY, NUI.


IT WAS TRUE THAT ONLY THE MAIN FAMILY, WHO HAD ME, WAS SUCCESSFUL.
THE REST OF THE FAMILY BELIEVED ME WHEN I SAID I BROUGHT "GOOD BUSINESS."

AMIDST THEIR GREEDY STARES, I SAID...
HOWEVER, THAT WAS ON ACCOUNT OF NUI'S ABILITY
"SCREW THAT."
SH— SHE FLED?!
WAIT!
NUI'S THE ONLY OWNER FOR ME!
SFX THUD
SFX DASH

SFX GRAB
SFX JUMP
SFX THUD
BUT...
I MAY BE A TSUKUMOGAMI MADE FROM CLOTH, BUT I'M NOT SO WEAK THAT HUMANS CAN CATCH ME
SFX WHIZ
SOR-RY.

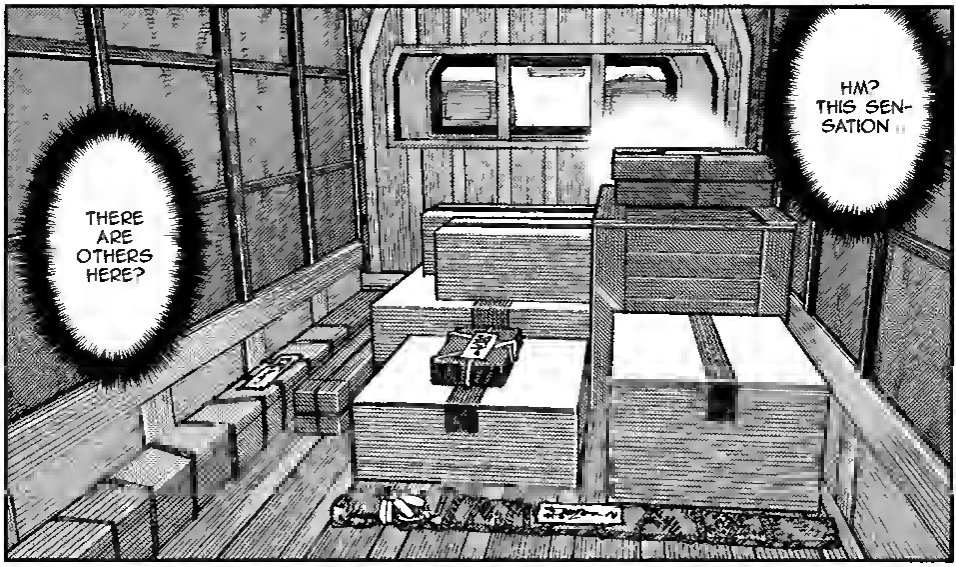

SFX TIGHT
UGH.
AN OBI-BINDING CORD, HUH...!


THAT BELONGS TO OUR FAMILY!
HEY, WHO ARE YOU?!

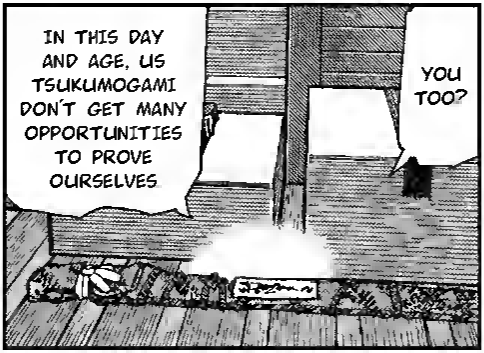
?!
MRS HANAMITANI NUI SENT US HER WILL

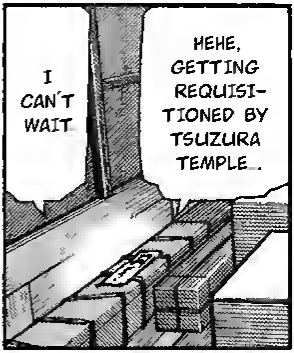
MY NAME IS TAGUSARI I'M FROM TSUZURA TEMPLE, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH EXORCISES ABERRATIONS
SFX RUSTLE

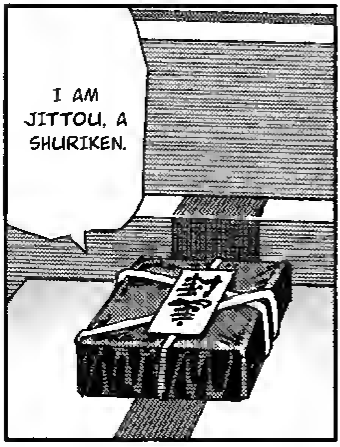
I SEE
I TOOK CARE OF THINGS FOR YOU ON MY OWN."
"HEY, KIRIHA. IT SEEMS THAT YOU WANT TO GO ON WITHOUT CHOOSING ANOTHER OWNER.
GOING ALONG WITH WHAT NUI WISHED CAN'T BE A BAD THING
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY PLANS
NUI SAW TO IT THAT I WOULDN'T BE TROUBLED BY THE FIGHTING OVER THE INHERITANCE
SFX: VROOM
OI.
SFX: CLANGITY CLANG
WHAT'S WITH THIS TREATMENT?!


HM? THIS SENSATION...
THERE ARE OTHERS HERE?

THIS ATMOSPHERE... YOU'RE WEAPONS?

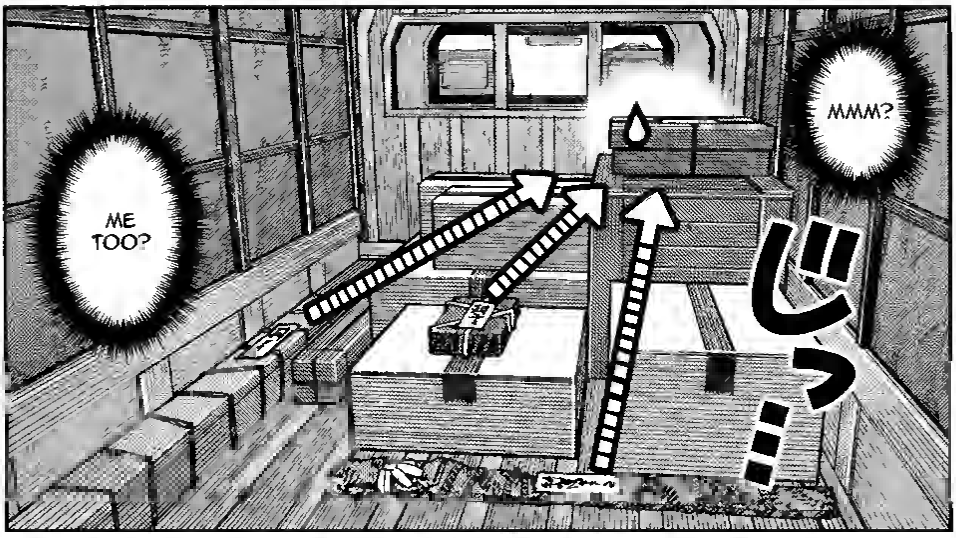

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, US TSUKUMOGAMI DON'T GET MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVE OURSELVES.
YOU TOO?

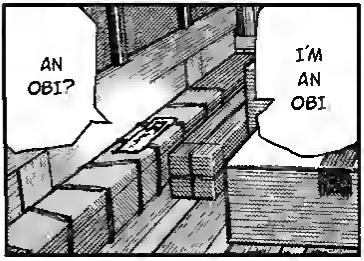

I CAN'T WAIT.
HEHE, GETTING REQUISITIONED BY TSUZURA TEMPLE...

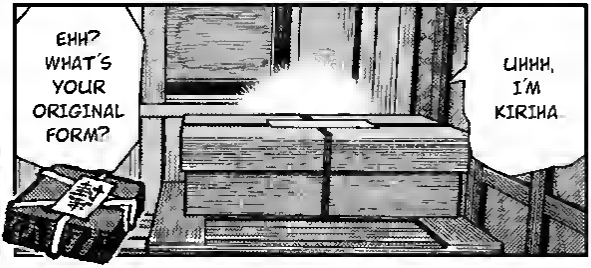

I AM JITTOU, A SHURIKEN.

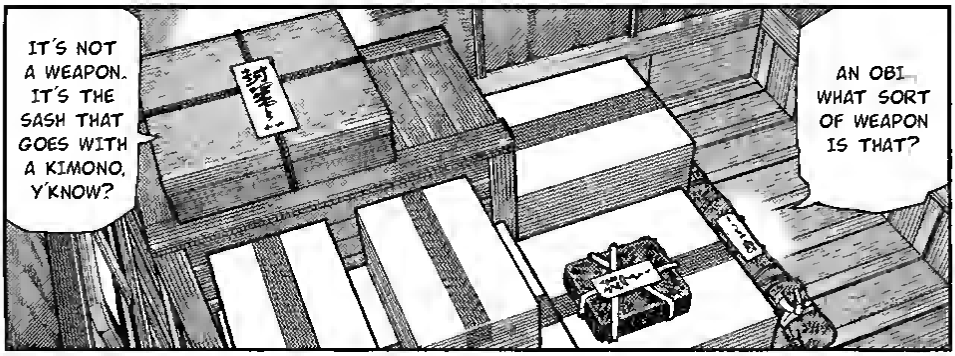
I AM SASANAO-TSUGU, A KATANA.

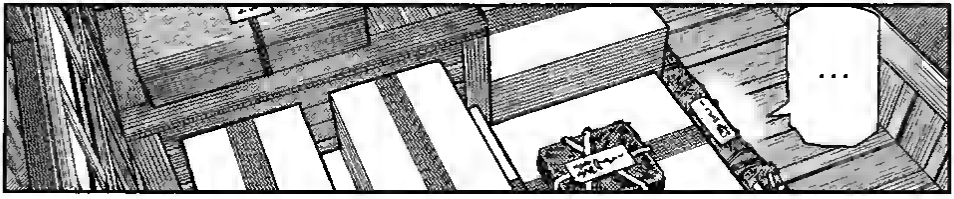
THAT'S RIGHT. I AM BIDANSHIN, A SPEAR. HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?


MMM?
ME TOO?
じっ…!!
SFX STARE

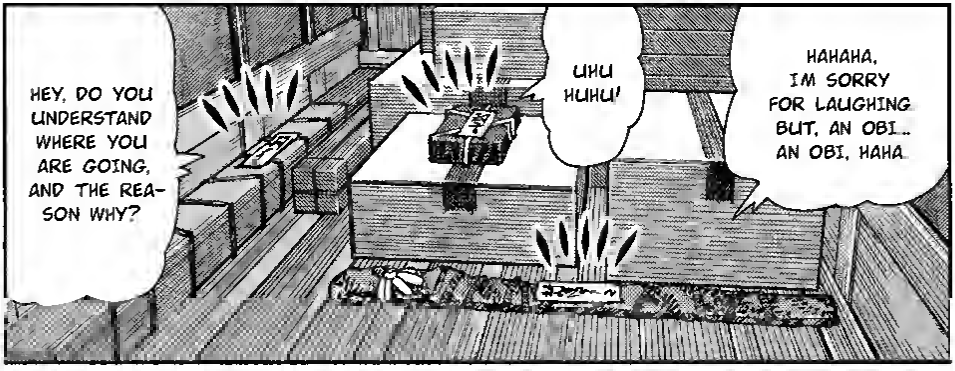

AN OBI?
I'M AN OBI

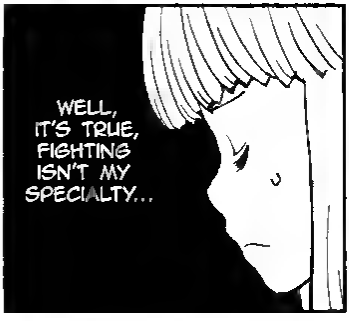

EHH? WHAT'S YOUR ORIGINAL FORM?
UHHH, I'M KIRIHA

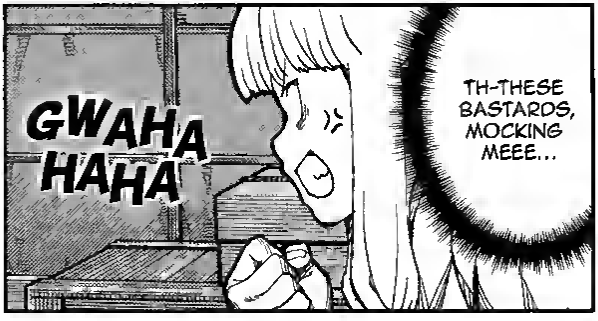

IT'S NOT A WEAPON. IT'S THE SASH THAT GOES WITH A KIMONO, Y'KNOW?
AN OBI... WHAT SORT OF WEAPON IS THAT?

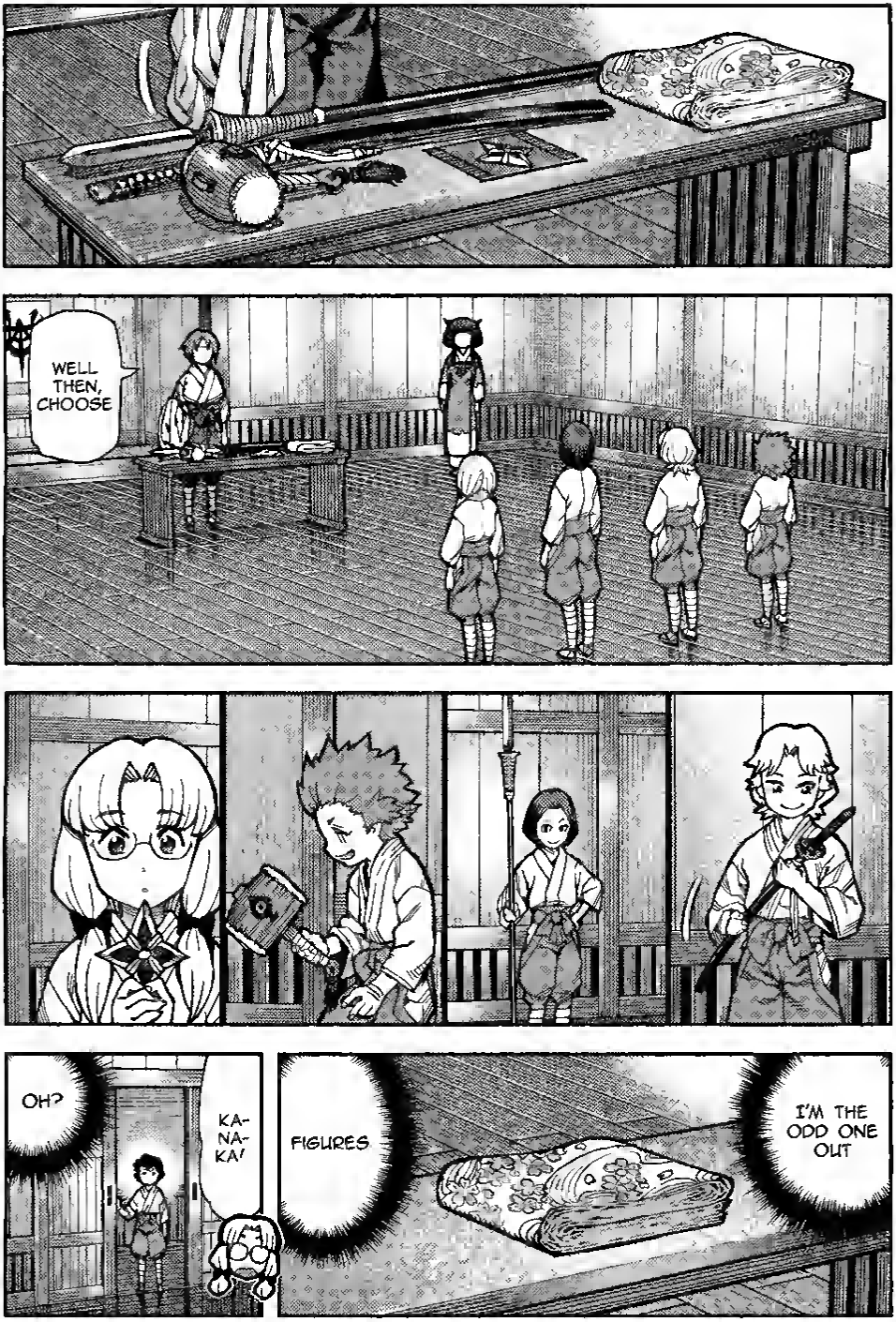

...

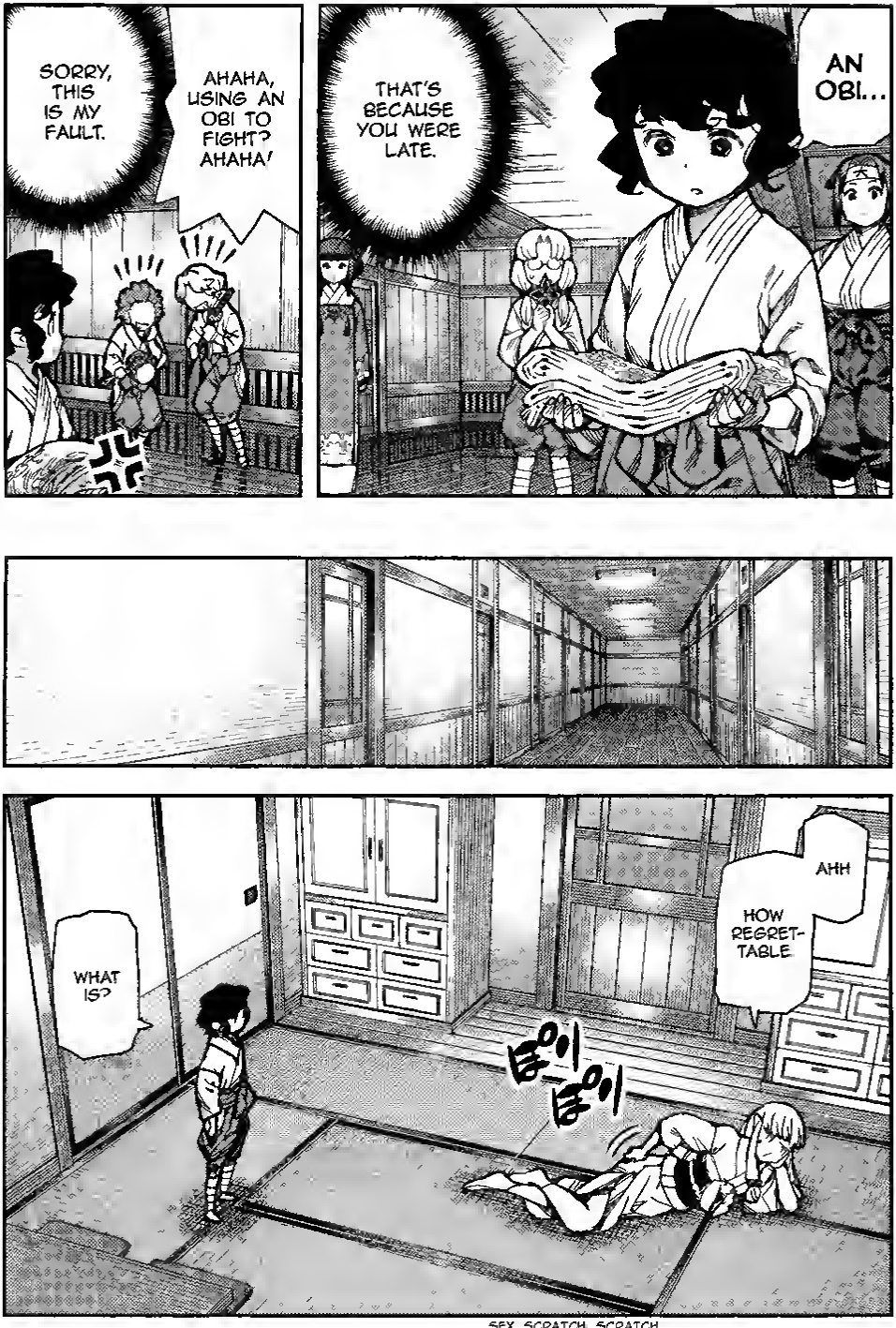
WAAA HA HA HA!
WAAA HA HA HA HA!


HEY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU ARE GOING, AND THE REASON WHY?
UHU HUHU!
HAHAHA, IM SORRY FOR LAUGHING BUT, AN OBI... AN OBI, HAHA

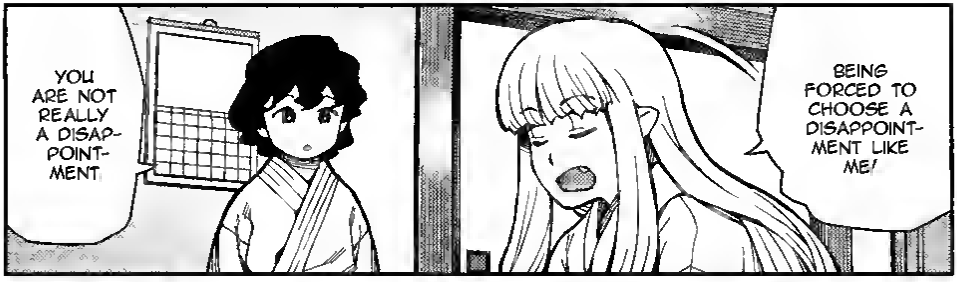

WELL, IT'S TRUE, FIGHTING ISN'T MY SPECIALTY...

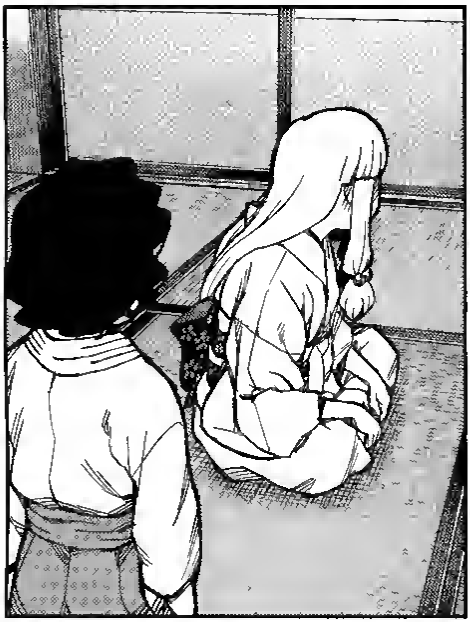

GWAHA HAHA
TH-THESE BASTARDS, MOCKING MEEE...


WELL THEN, CHOOSE
OH?
KA-NA-KA!
FIGURES
I'M THE ODD ONE OUT

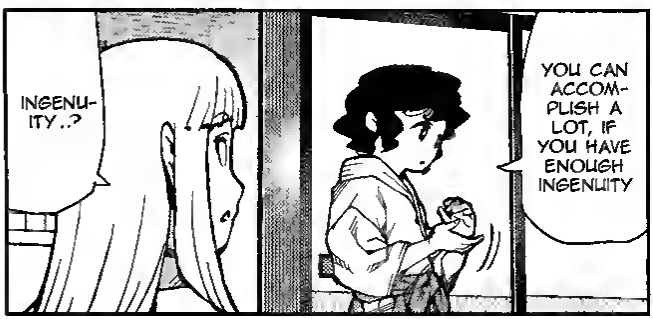


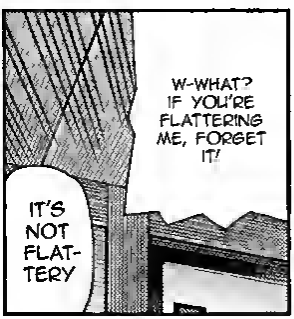
SFX SCRATCH SCRATCH


YOU ARE NOT REALLY A DISAP-POINT-MENT
BEING FORCED TO CHOOSE A DISAPPOINT-MENT LIKE ME!



EVEN IF I WASN'T LATE, YOU WOULD STILL HAVE BEEN MY FIRST CHOICE


INGENU-ITY..?
YOU CAN ACCOM-PLISH A LOT, IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH INGENUITY

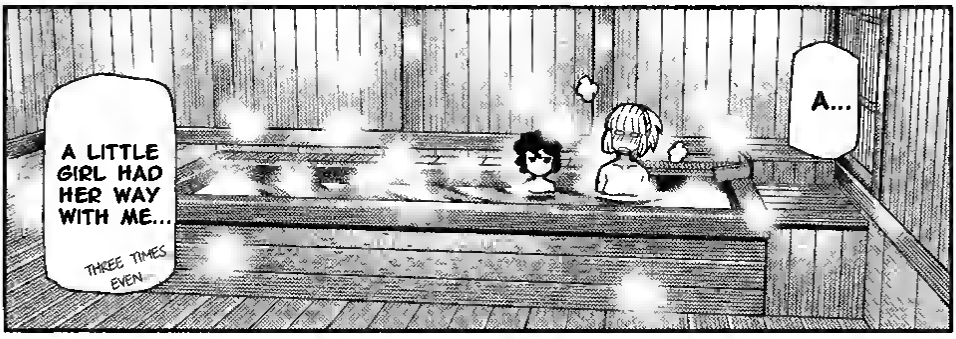

W-WHAT? IF YOU'RE FLATTERING ME, FORGET IT!
IT'S NOT FLAT-TERY

SFX SWOOSH
SFX FWIP
?
SMOOTH
SFX SLASH

THAT'S ENOUGH!
SFX CLING
SFX SWOOSH
...
.. AND, KANAKA.. WHAT IS IT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO WITH YOUR.. OBI?
YES.
YOU'VE BECOME QUITE PROFICIENT, HIYORI KEEP IT UP
I'VE GOT NO CLUE EITHER.
...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I CAN "SEE IT", BUT IT SEEMS THAT'S "INSUFFICIENT."

...Oi—
I SUP-POSE SOOO...
I NEED TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER, KIRIHA
SFX RUB, RUB, RUB, RUB, RUB
WHAT IN THEEE?!

SUCK
SUCK
LICK
LICK
SQUEEZ
ぽあ…


A...
A LITTLE GIRL HAD HER WAY WITH ME...
THREE TIMES EVEN...

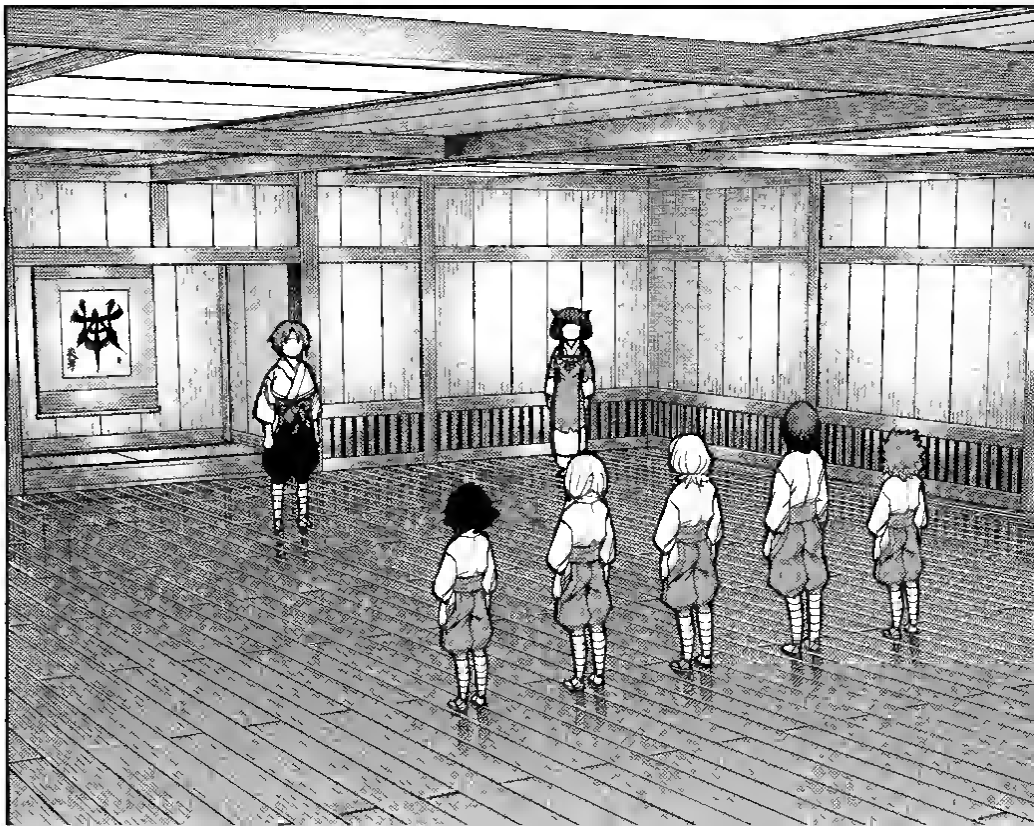
IS THIS NECESSARY FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER...?
THE MORE INFORMATION, THE BETTER
I SEE...

SFX SPLASH
...
NO, NO, THERE IS NO WAY YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY EROGENOUS ZONES!
MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY TO MAKE HER UNDER-STAND A LITTLE?
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE TOLD NOT TO RE-LEASE THEIR SEALS WHEN UNNECES-SARY
SHE'S GETTING INTIMATE WITH HER TSUKUMO-GAMI AGAIN
WHAT?
MY CLOTHES ARE GONE
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH.

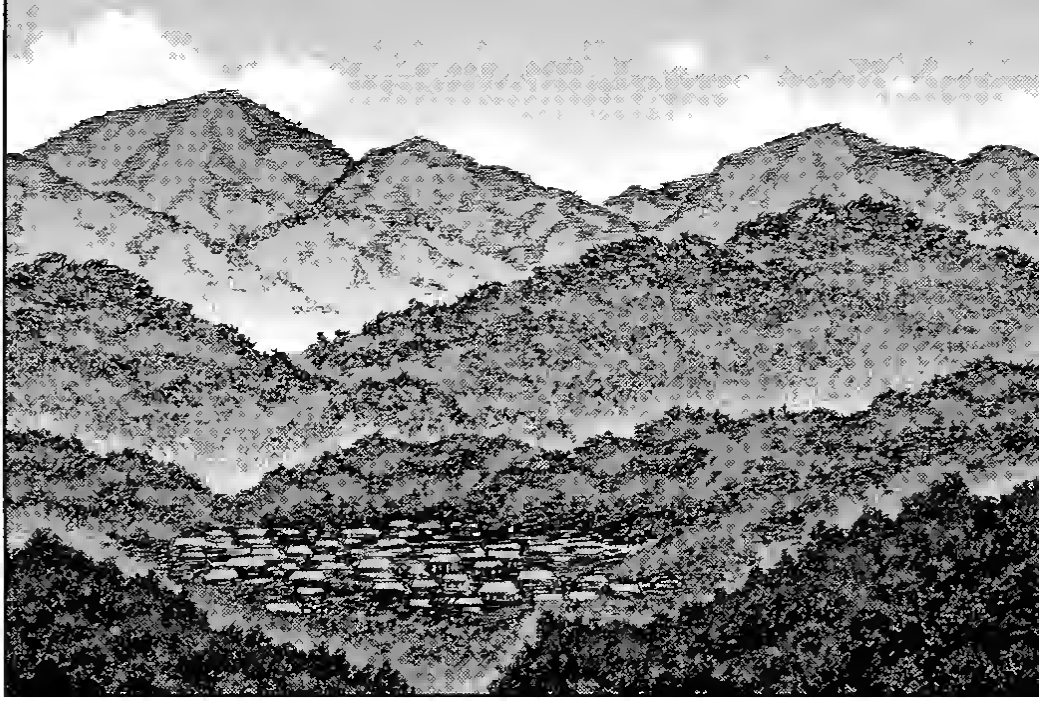
IT'S STARTING TO REALLY BOTHER ME
ENOUGH ALREADY, WHY DON'T WE DEAL WITH THEM?
PROBABLY
THOSE GUYS AGAAAIN?
...OI, WAIT, WAIT! ARE YOU JUST GONNA GO BACK NAKED?!
W-WELL... JUST BECAUSE!
THEY DIDN'T CAUSE YOU ANY HARM, SO WHY?

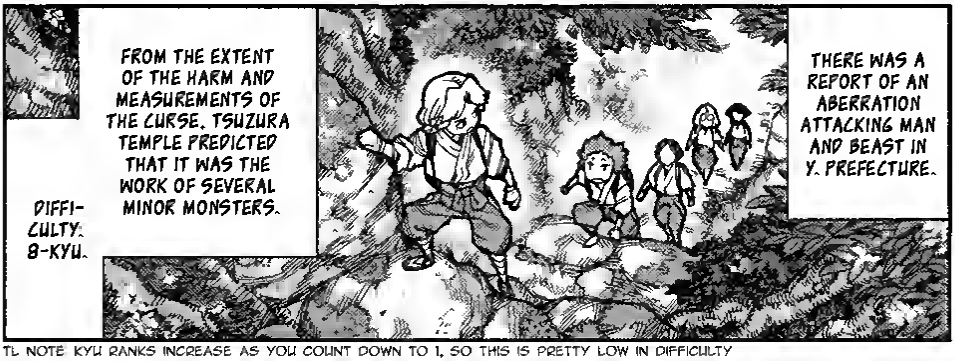
SFX FLICK
?
I'M AN OBI TSUKUMO-GAMI, YOU KNOW
HO HO.
SHE WILL PASS BY HERE SOON
SFX SNEAK
SFX DRAPED
HUH?
SHE'S HERE, SHE'S HERE!
SFX STEP

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER.
DO HO HO.
?
?
?



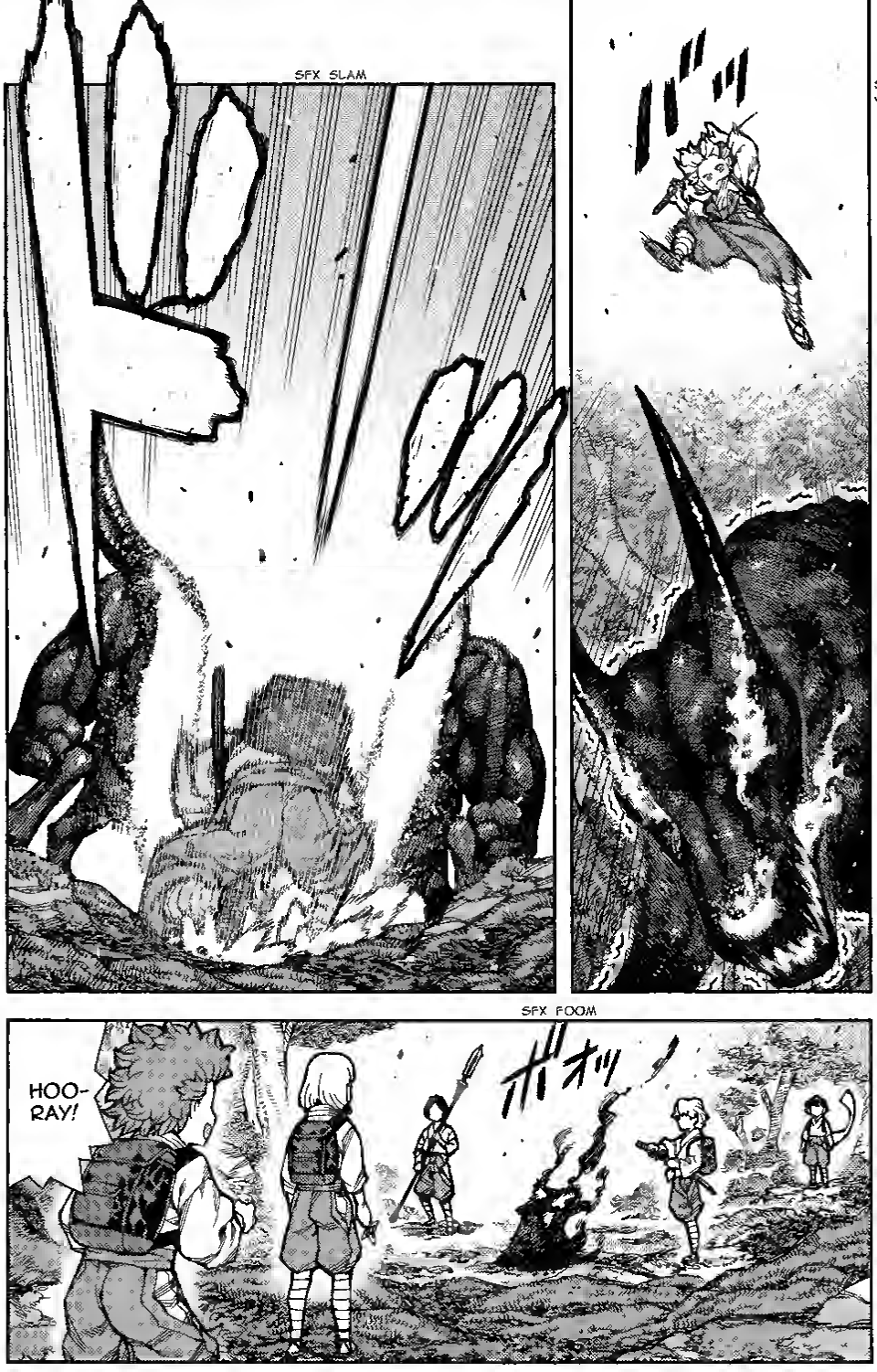
THE CONTENT OF THAT EXAM...
WITH THAT, WE WILL BE CARRYING OUT THE FINAL EXAM FOR PROMOTION TO BEING PROPER EXORCISTS
STUDENTS, YOU HAVE ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE PROFICIENCY IN YOUR VARIOUS METHODS
!
...IS DEALING WITH A REAL ABERRATION.
YES!
BE CAREFUL!
ULTIMATELY, YOU WILL BE THE ONES DOING THE JOB
THERE WILL BE ADVISORS WITH YOU, BUT THEY ARE ONLY THERE TO GRADE YOU AS OBSERVERS

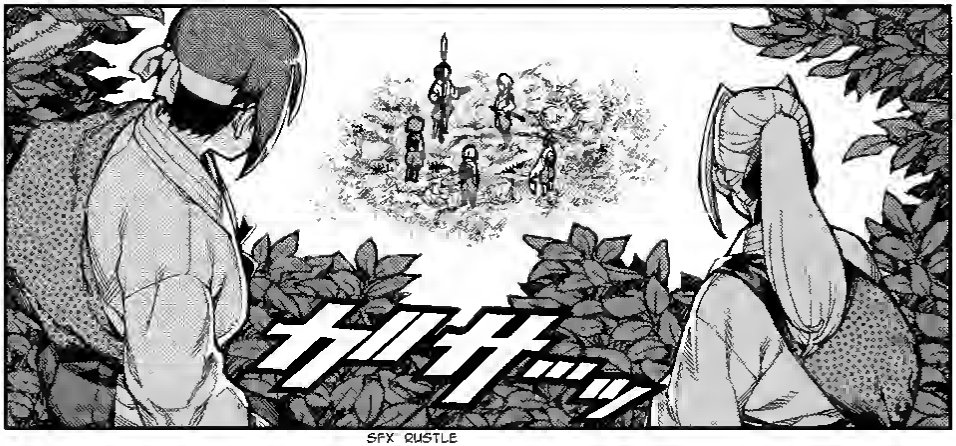



FROM THE EXTENT OF THE HARM AND MEASUREMENTS OF THE CURSE, TSUZURA TEMPLE PREDICTED THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF SEVERAL MINOR MONSTERS.
THERE WAS A REPORT OF AN ABERRATION ATTACKING MAN AND BEAST IN Y. PREFECTURE.
DIFFI-CULTY: 8-KYU.

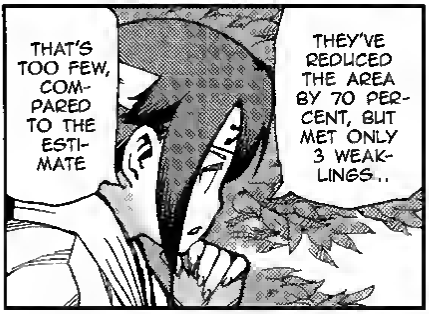
TL NOTE: KYU RANKS INCREASE AS YOU COUNT DOWN TO 1, SO THIS IS PRETTY LOW IN DIFFICULTY

WHILE PURIFYING THE AREA OF CURSE, THEY CONTRACTED THE BARRIER TOWARDS THE CENTER.
INSIDE THAT, THEY PURSUED THE MINOR MONSTERS.
THE EXORCISM SQUAD ENCLOSED THE TROUBLED AREA IN A SIMPLE BARRIER, 14KM IN DIAMETER.
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: YAWP
SFX: BAM, BAM, BAM
SFX: YELP
SFX: SWISH
YES!
SUMIRE!


SFX SLAM
SFX JUMP
SFX FOOM
HOO-RAY!


ガサガッ

SFX: RUSTLE


THEY'VE REDUCED THE AREA BY 70 PERCENT, BUT MET ONLY 3 WEAKLINGS..
THAT'S TOO FEW, COMPARED TO THE ESTIMATE

HMM...
DID YOU NOTICE SOMETHING?

MINOR MONSTERS AREN'T THAT INTELLIGENT

PERHAPS THEY SENSED THE DANGER AND FLED?

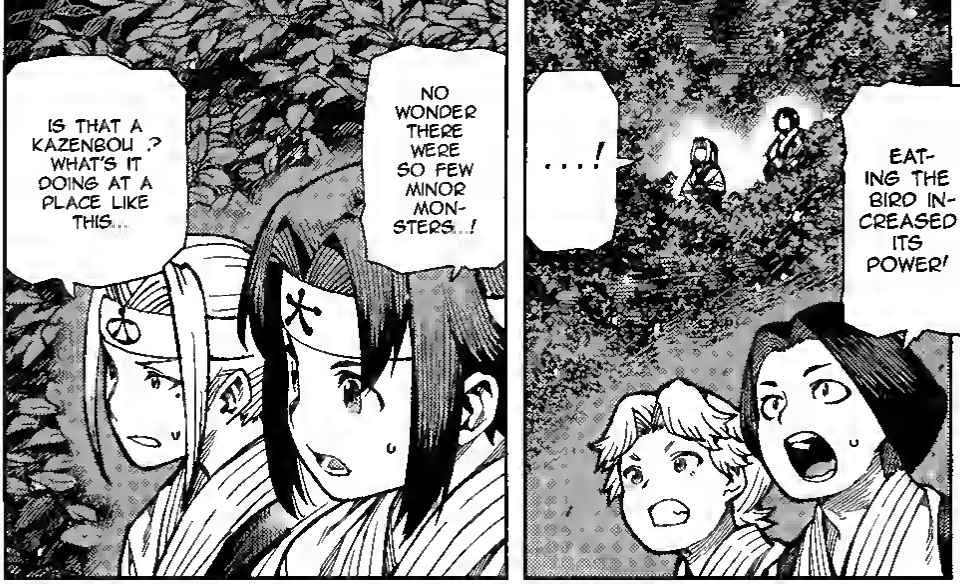
...
OKAY!
WE'RE HEADED FOR THE NEXT SECTION!

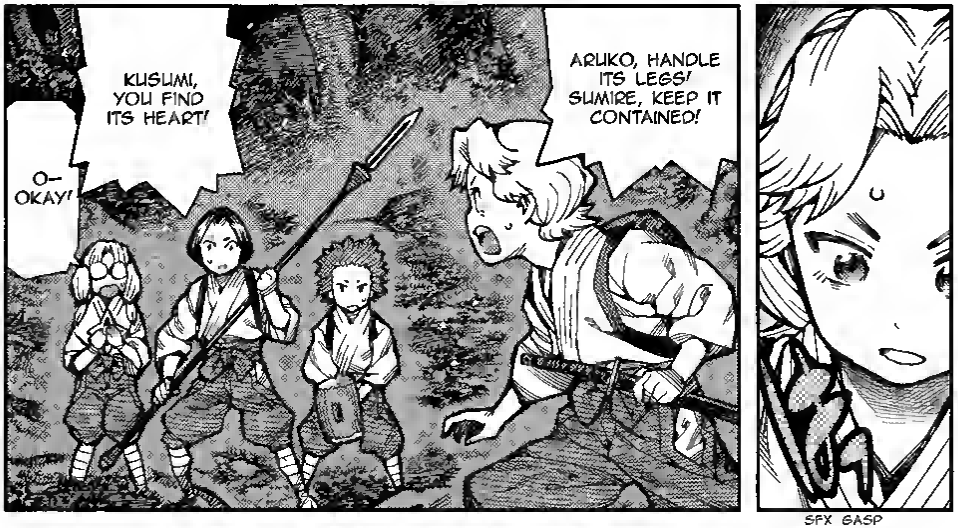
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: ZOOM
?!
ARUKO, BLOCK ITS PATH!
GOT-CHA!

SFX
CRUNCH
SFX
BLAZE
EEEK!
WHAT?!

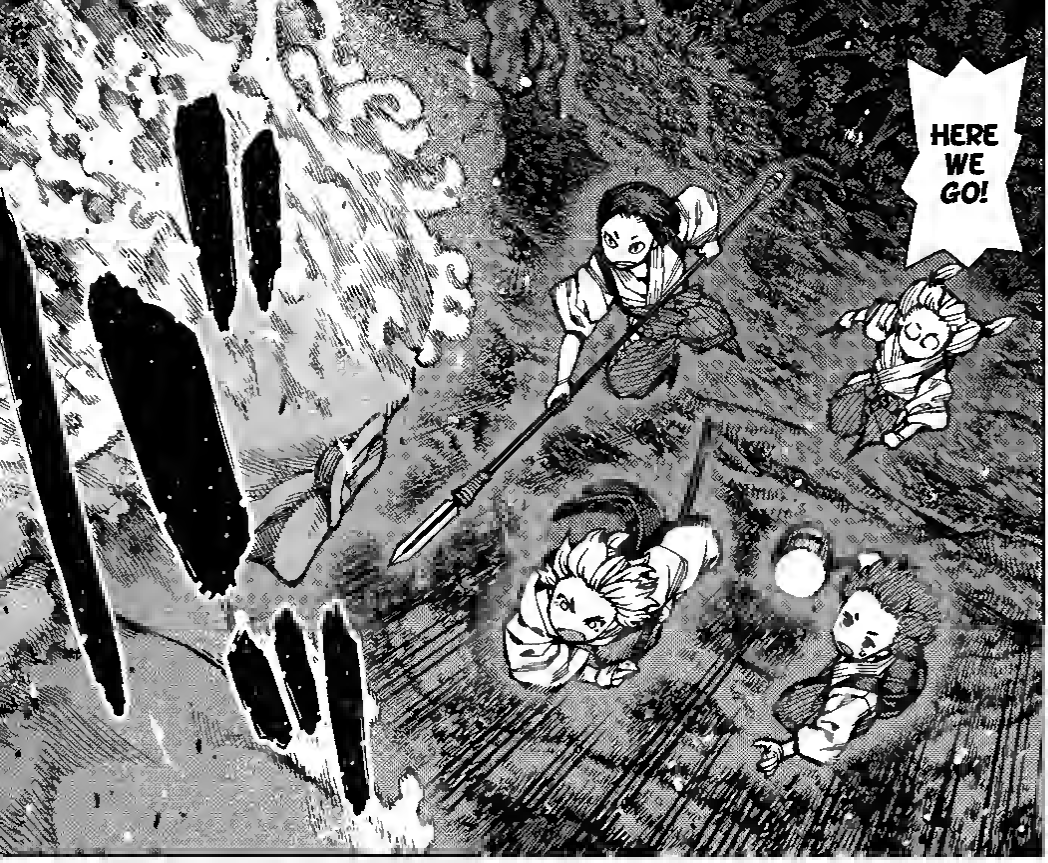
ゴオオ
WHOOSH
A KAZEN-BOU...

AG
CRUNCH!
MUNCH!
CRUNCH!
MUNCH!
SFX FWOOSH

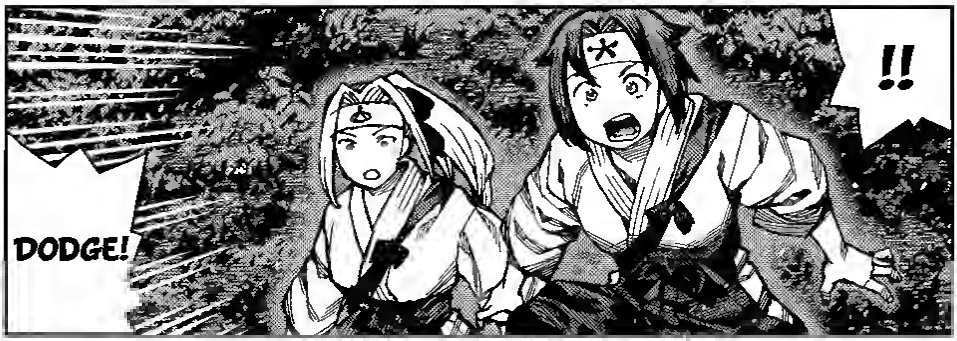

IS THAT A KAZENBOU ? WHAT'S IT DOING AT A PLACE LIKE THIS...
NO WONDER THERE WERE SO FEW MINOR MON-STERS...!
...!
EAT-ING THE BIRD IN-CREASED ITS POWER!


KUSUMI, YOU FIND ITS HEART!
O-OKAY!
ARUKO, HANDLE ITS LEGS! SUMIRE, KEEP IT CONTAINED!
SFX GASP

PLEASE BE QUIET, YOU COW-ARD!
WE'RE BETTER OFF ES-CAPING
WON'T WORK



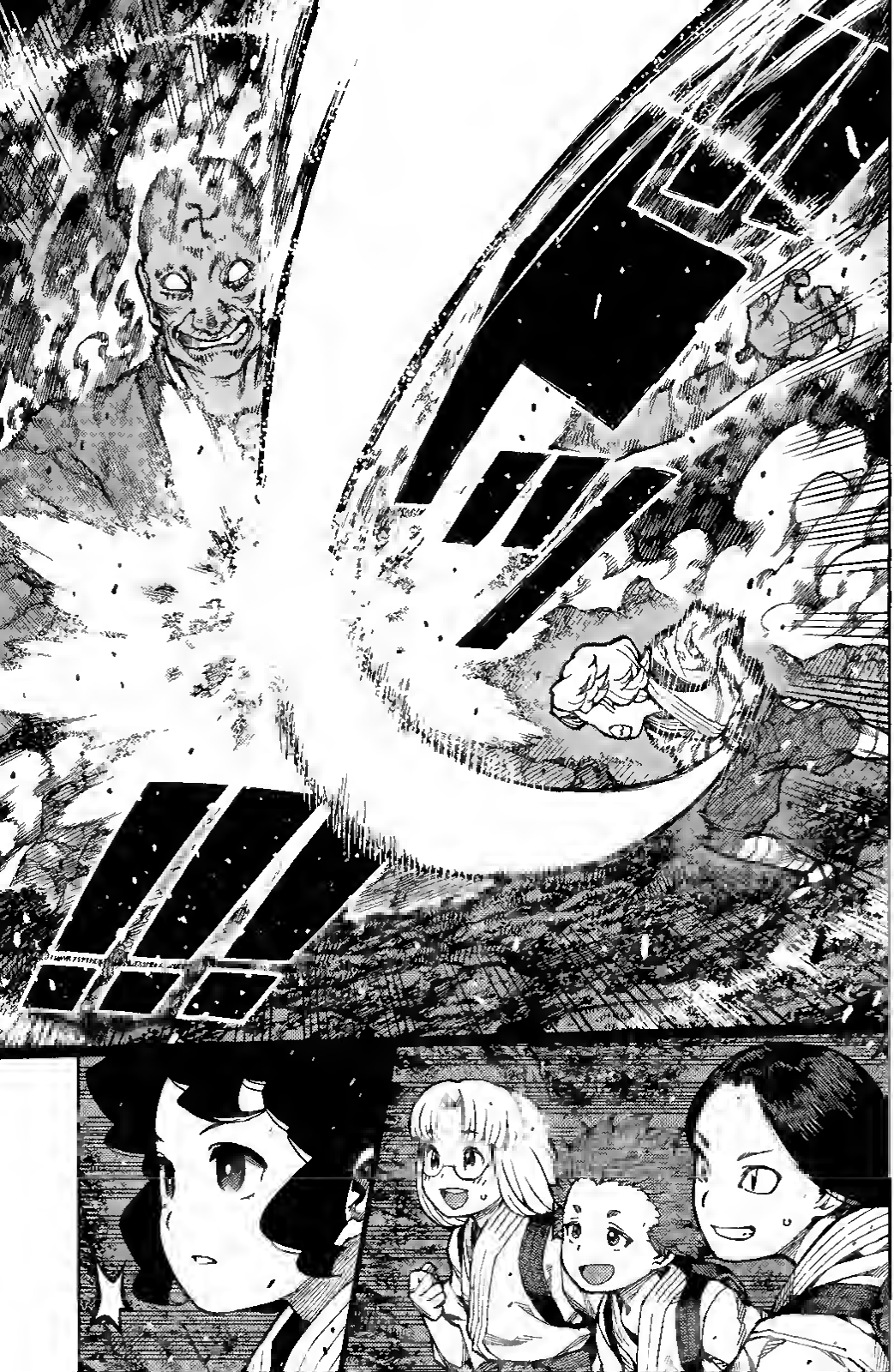
SFX ZOOM



SFX
SWISH
SFX
WHOOSH
SFX
BOOM
SFX
HARDEN
!

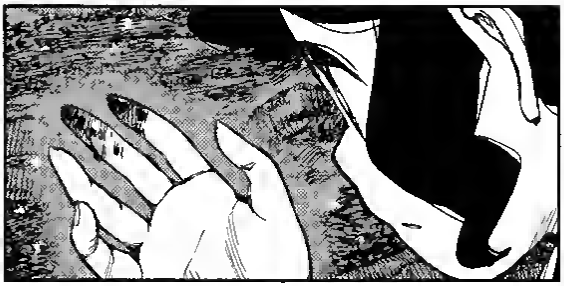
SFX
WOOSH
BAM
IT'S THERE! RIGHT OF THE SOLAR PLEXUS!
APPEAR
OK!

NAO-TSUGU!
SFX HUM
TEN TIMES BLADE!
SWISH


SFX
SLAM

SFX
GRAB
!!
DODGE IT, YOU FOOL!
SFX
SLAM
SFX
JUMP

SFX FSSHHH



SFX BA-DUMP

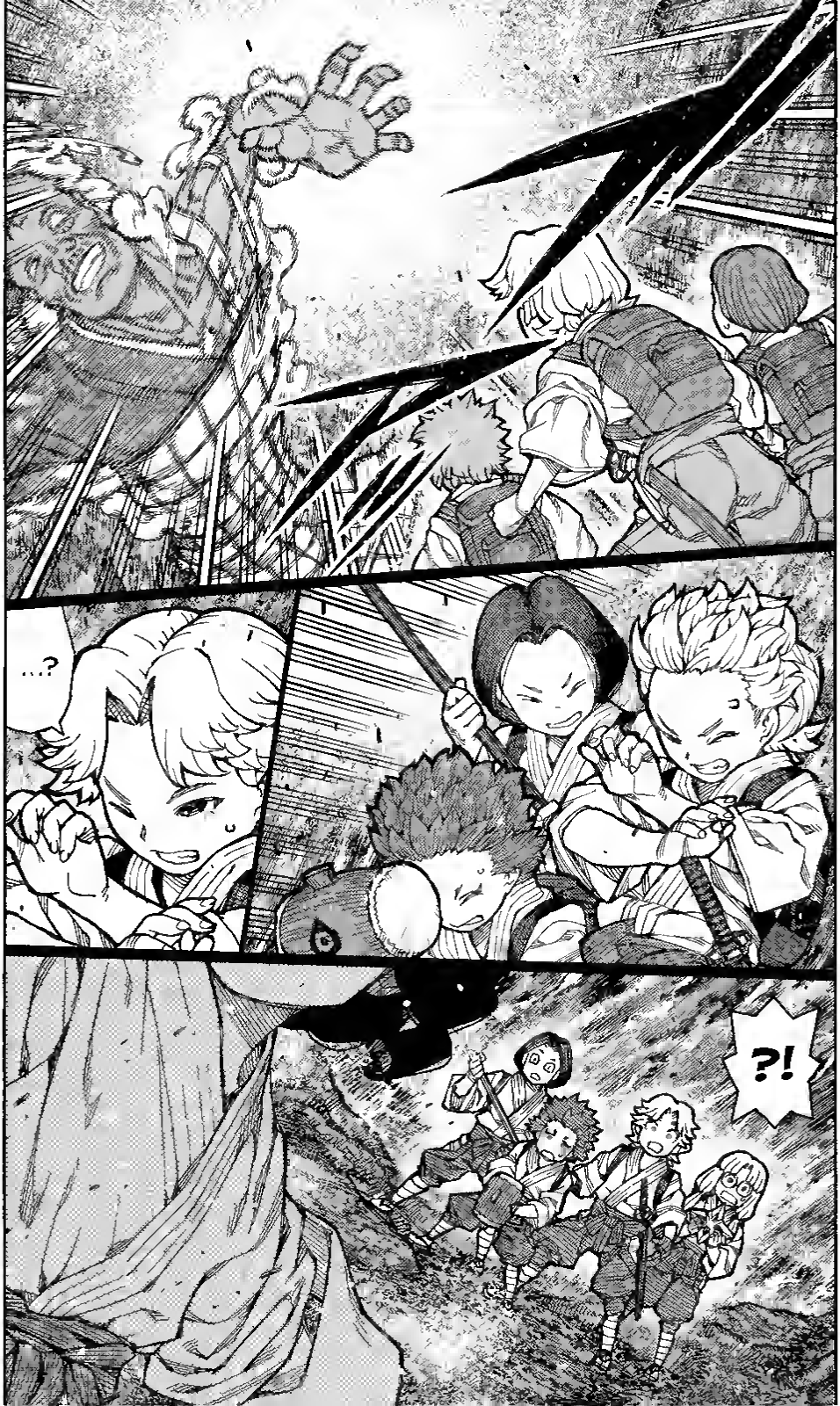
IT TRIED TO CAPTURE HIYORI! IT INTENDS TO EAT US TOO!
YOU GUYS, ESCAPE!
THE DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN RAISED TO 2-KYU! CALL FOR REINFORCE-MENTS!
Y-- YES!
SFX WHIRL
!!
SFX WHOOSH
FWOOSH

SFX GRIN
THE ESCAPE ROUTE'S BLOCKED!
YOU GUYS STAY IN BACK!
YES!
TCH, LET'S JUST DO IT, TAGUSARI!
TEXT SEAL
SFX POOF
CHAIN TSUKUMOGAMI, GINTSUGI!
LAMP TSUKUMOGAMI, SHIROHIBIKI!
POOF

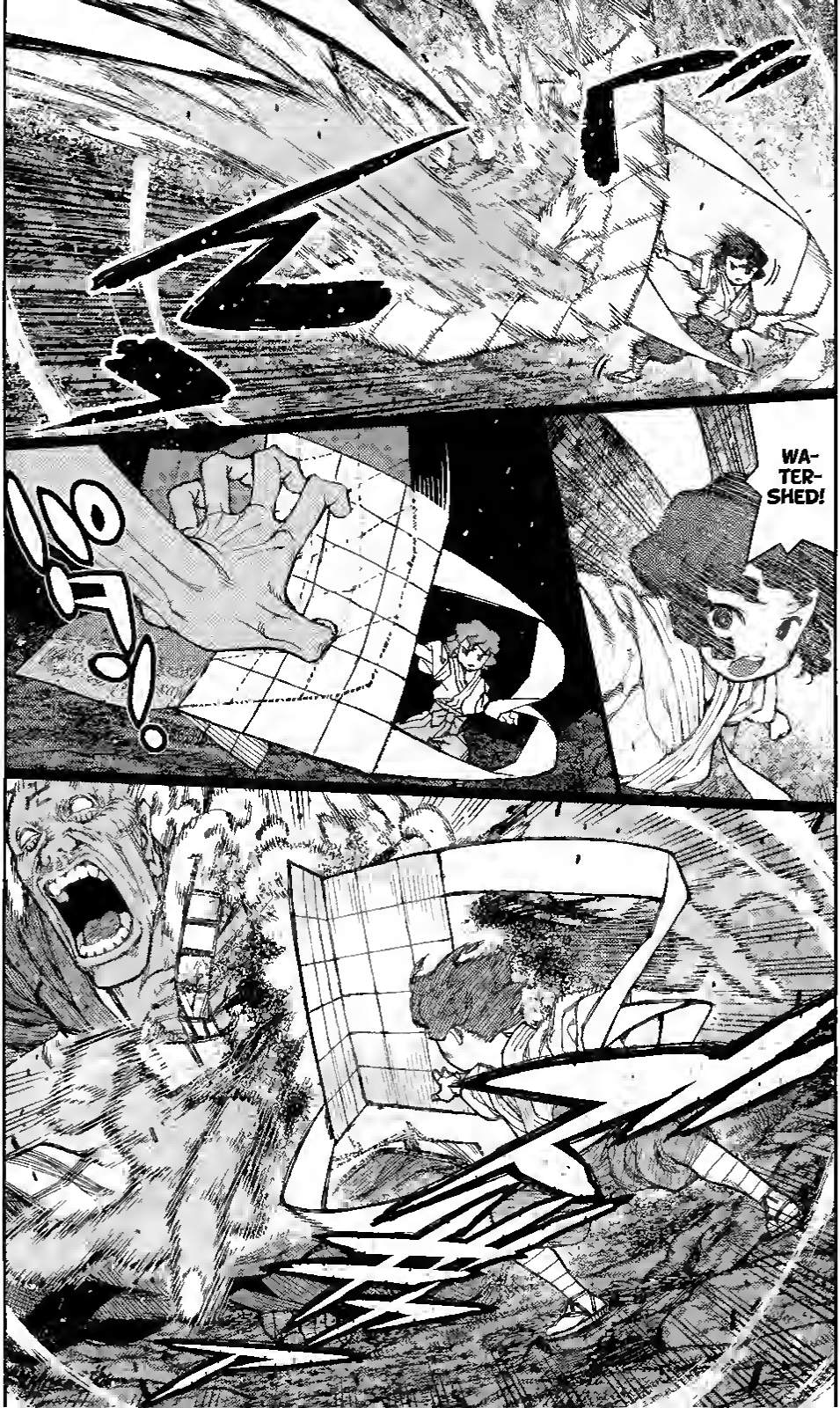
SFX GRAB
SFX WHOOSH
SHAD-OW LAN-TERN!
SFX GLOW
SFX FWOOSH
SFX WHOOSH

IRON CHAIN PRIS-ON!!
SFX CLANG
GOT IT!!
SFX SQUEEZE
SFX SHINE

SFX: CLENCH
SFX BANG
SFX WHAM
TEACH-ER!
UGH!
SFX GASP
SFX THUD


SFX
FWOOSH
...?
?!

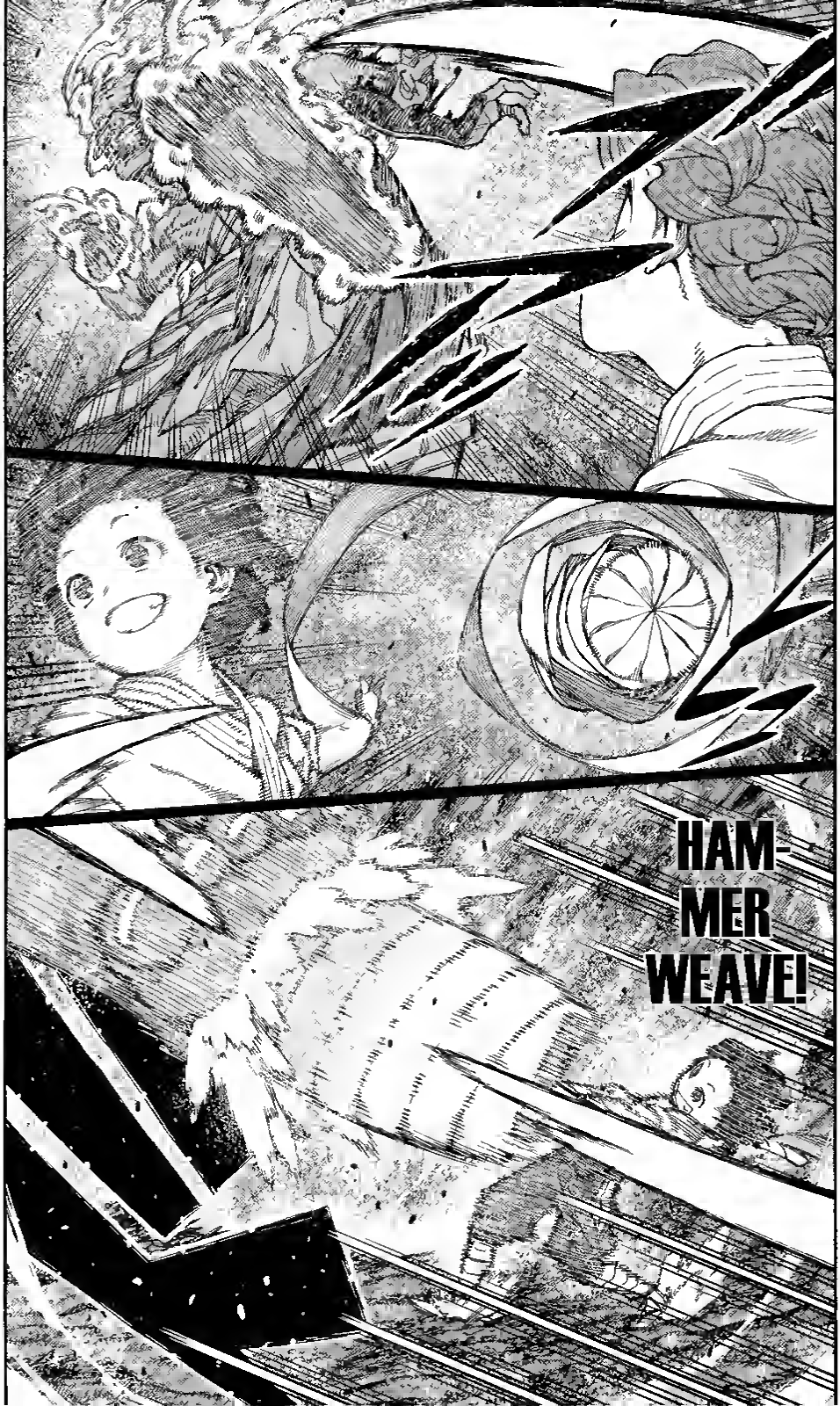
SFX
ROAR
BUT I DON'T NEED IT ANY-MOREEE!
OHHHH... I WANTED YOUR BODY...
KA... KANA-KA?
I'M GOING TO EAT YOU.

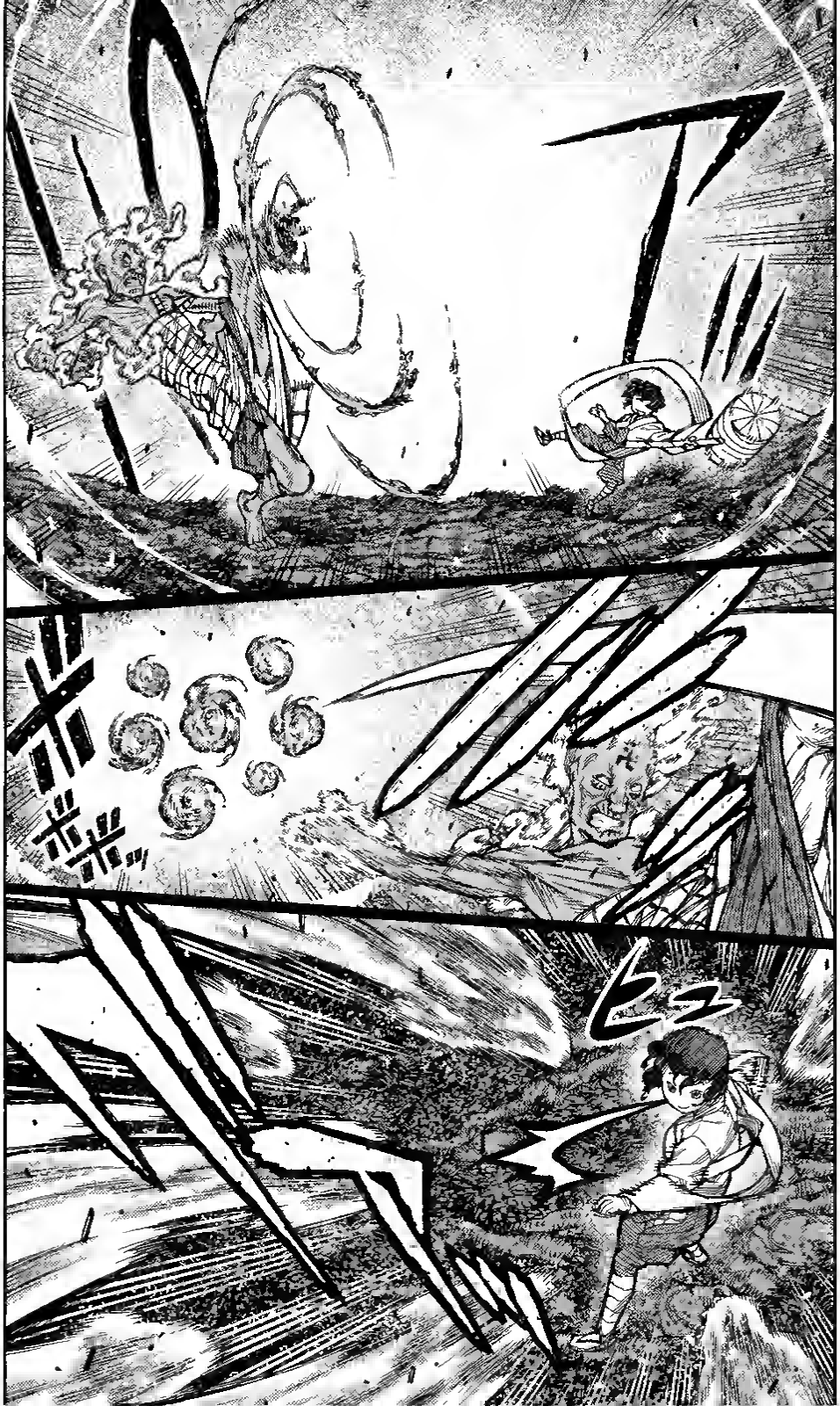

SFX WHAM
WA-TER-SHED!
SFX FLOP
SFX SPLIIIT

ROAR
YOU ARE DEAD !!!
OOO OOHH HH!
SFX TINGLE
...!
?!
...
KA– KANA- KA...!

SHE'S SMILING ...?

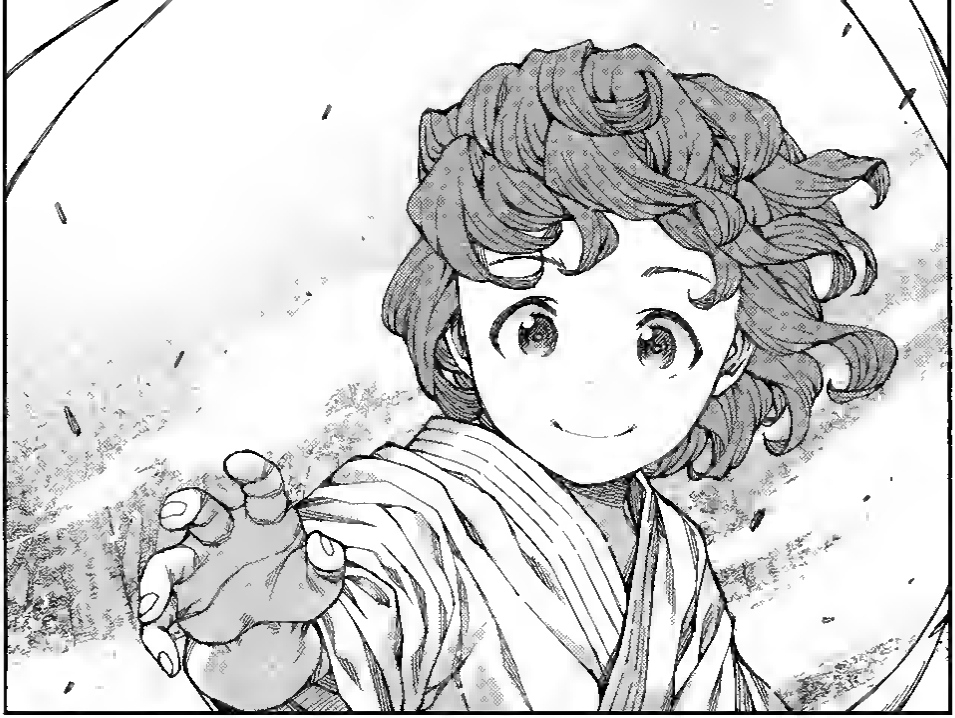
SFX WHOOSH
SFX DODGE
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SFX GRIND
SFX GRIN


SFX
FWOOSH
SFX
SWOOSH
HAM-
MER
WEAVE!
SFX
SLAM

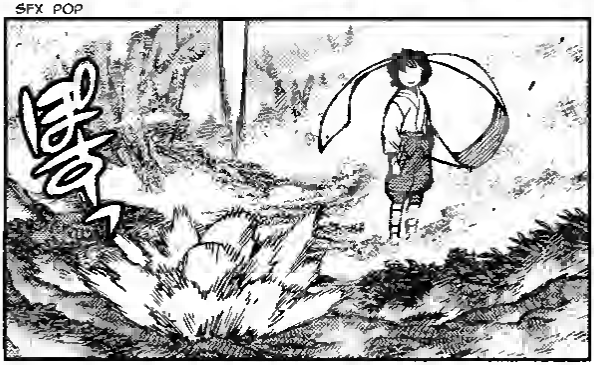

SFX
BANG
SFX
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
SFX
FWIP
SFX
SWISH
SFX
ROAR

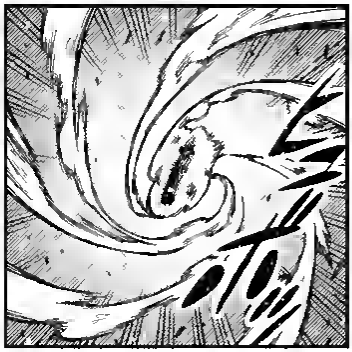
SFX
POW
POW
POW
POW
EN-
FORCED
ARM
WEAVE!
SFX
TWIRL

SPIRAL
WEAVE
!!!



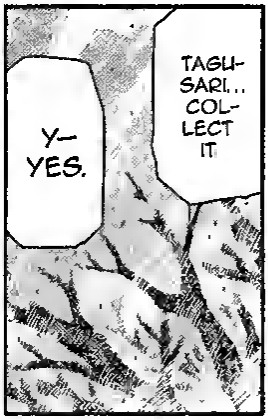
SFX POP

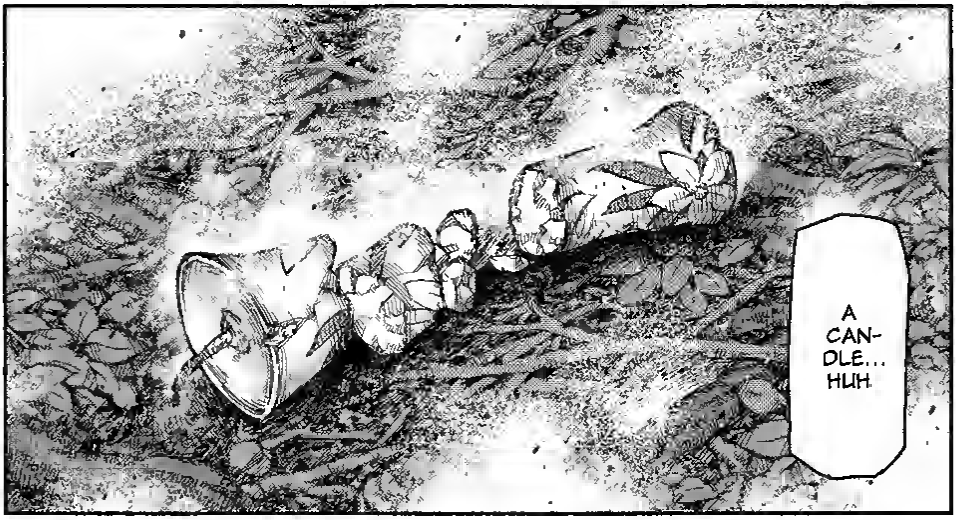




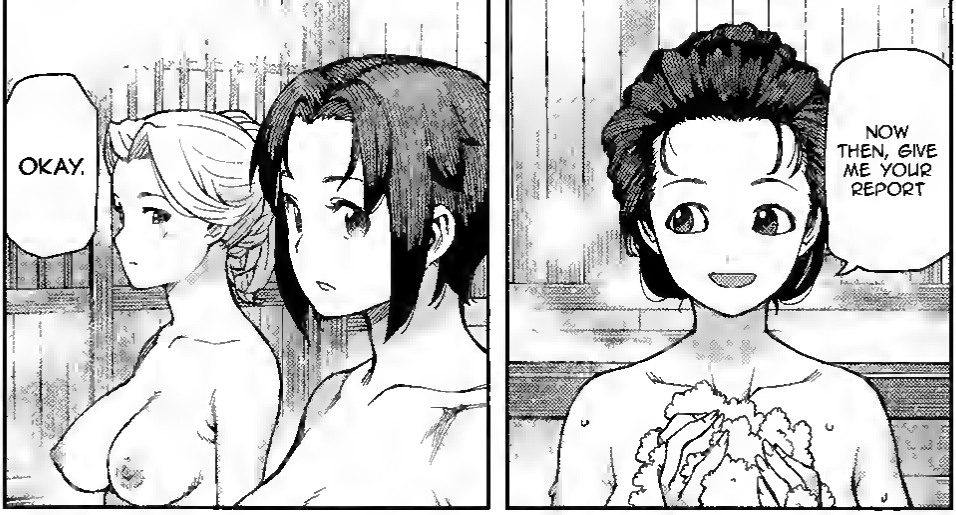
SFX SUCK

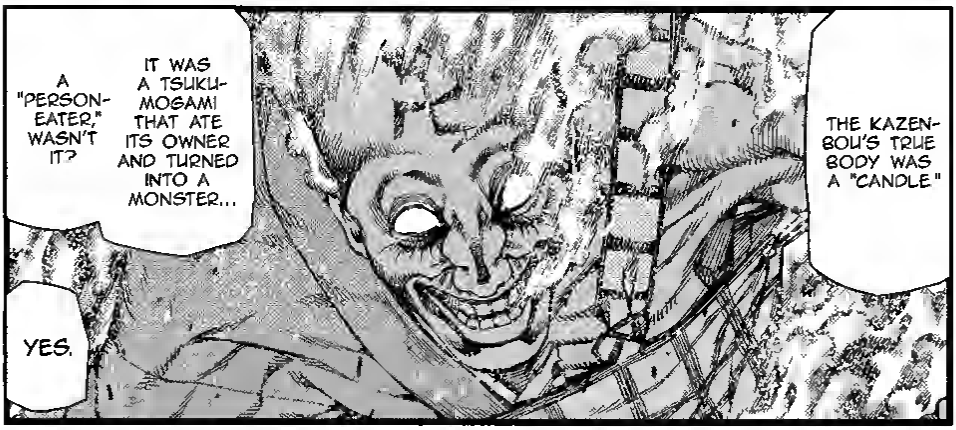
...


TAGU-
SARI...
COL-
LECT
IT
Y-
YES.

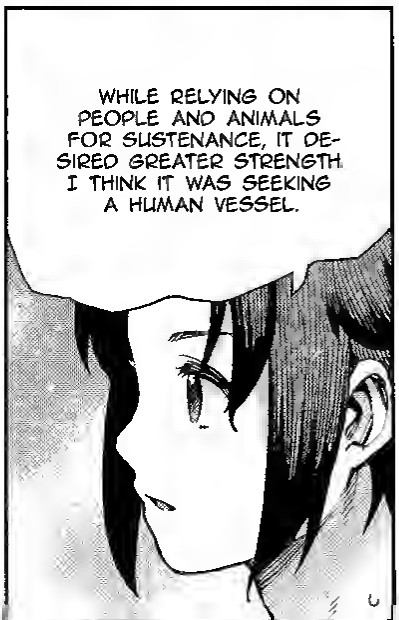

A
CAN-
DLE...
HUH

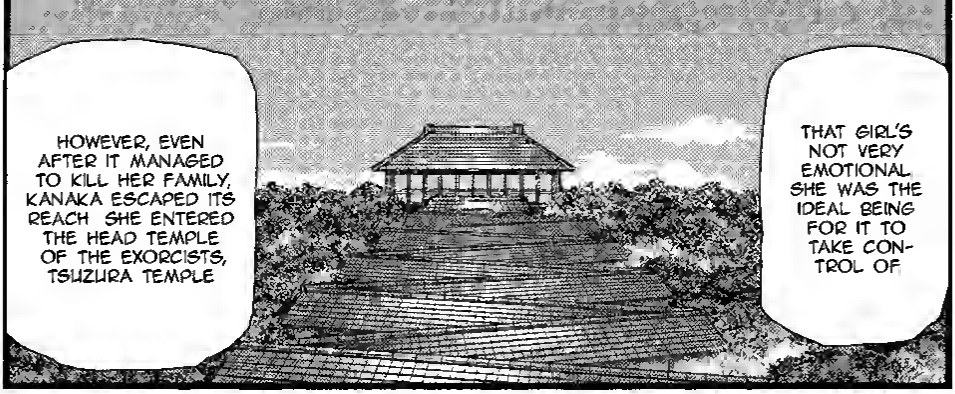
ONE MONTH LATER.


OKAY.
NOW THEN, GIVE ME YOUR REPORT

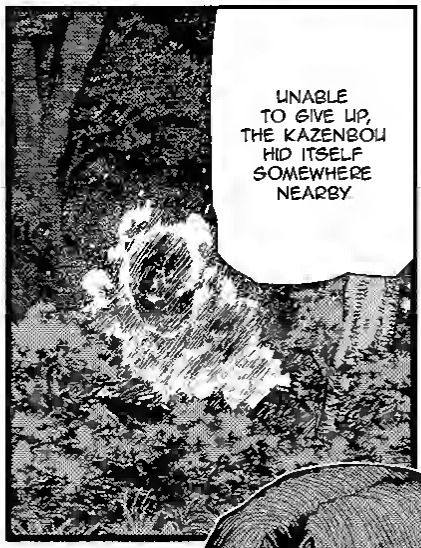

A "PERSON-EATER," WASN'T IT?
IT WAS A TSUKU-MOGAMI THAT ATE ITS OWNER AND TURNED INTO A MONSTER...
THE KAZEN-BOU'S TRUE BODY WAS A "CANDLE."
YES.

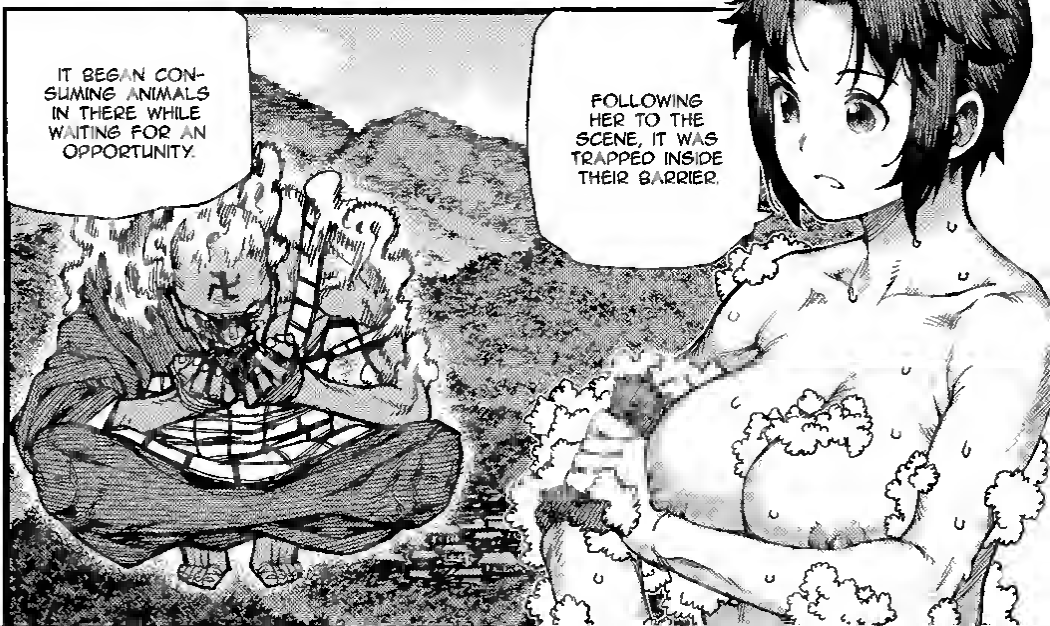
THE ONE IT CHOSE WAS KANAKA.

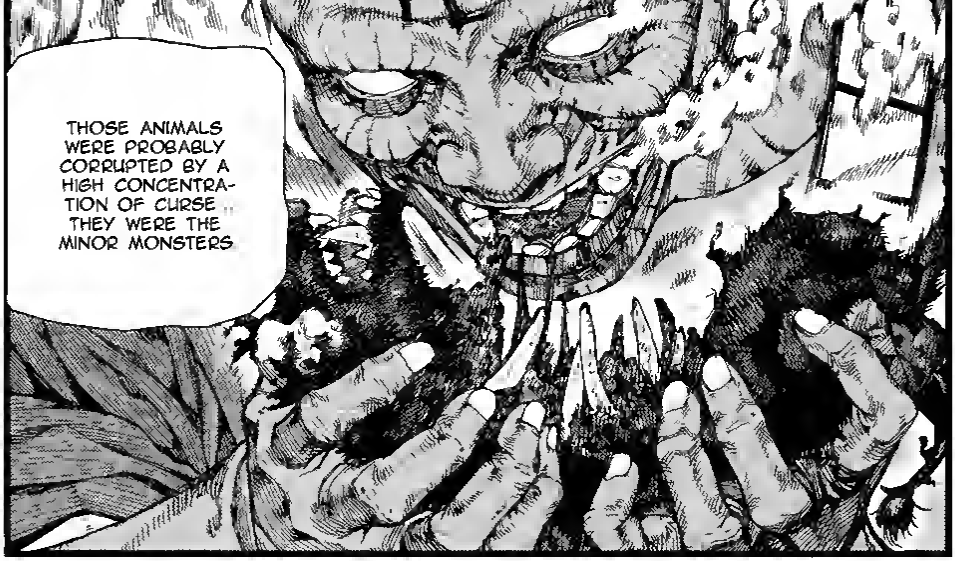

WHILE RELYING ON PEOPLE AND ANIMALS FOR SUSTENANCE, IT DESIRED GREATER STRENGTH. I THINK IT WAS SEEKING A HUMAN VESSEL.


HOWEVER, EVEN AFTER IT MANAGED TO KILL HER FAMILY, KANAKA ESCAPED ITS REACH. SHE ENTERED THE HEAD TEMPLE OF THE EXORCISTS, TSUZURA TEMPLE.
THAT GIRL'S NOT VERY EMOTIONAL. SHE WAS THE IDEAL BEING FOR IT TO TAKE CONTROL OF.

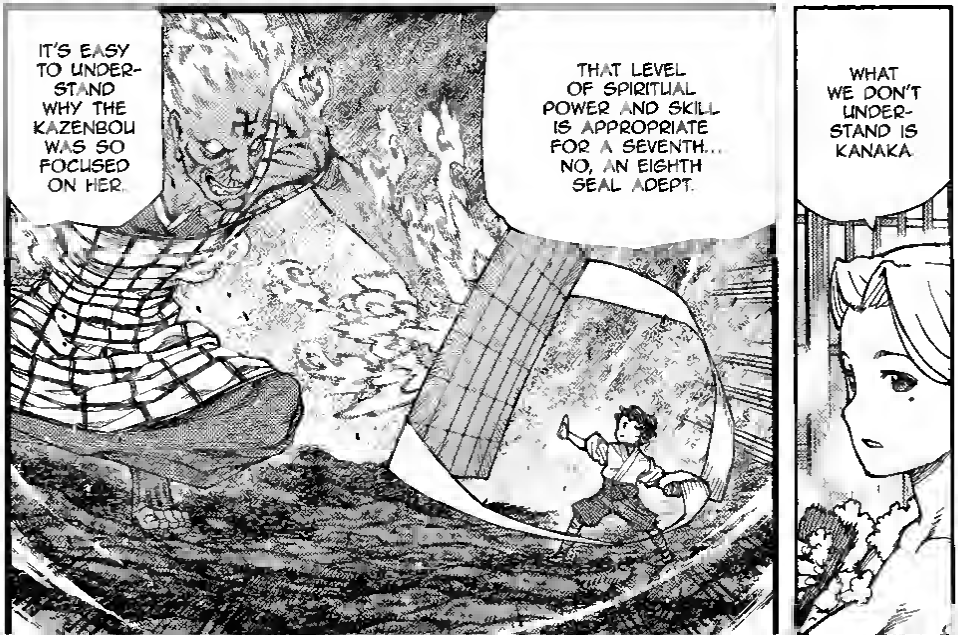
THEN, CONVENIENTLY, KANAKA LEFT THE TEMPLE TO TAKE THE EXAM.


UNABLE TO GIVE UP, THE KAZENBOU HID ITSELF SOMEWHERE NEARBY.

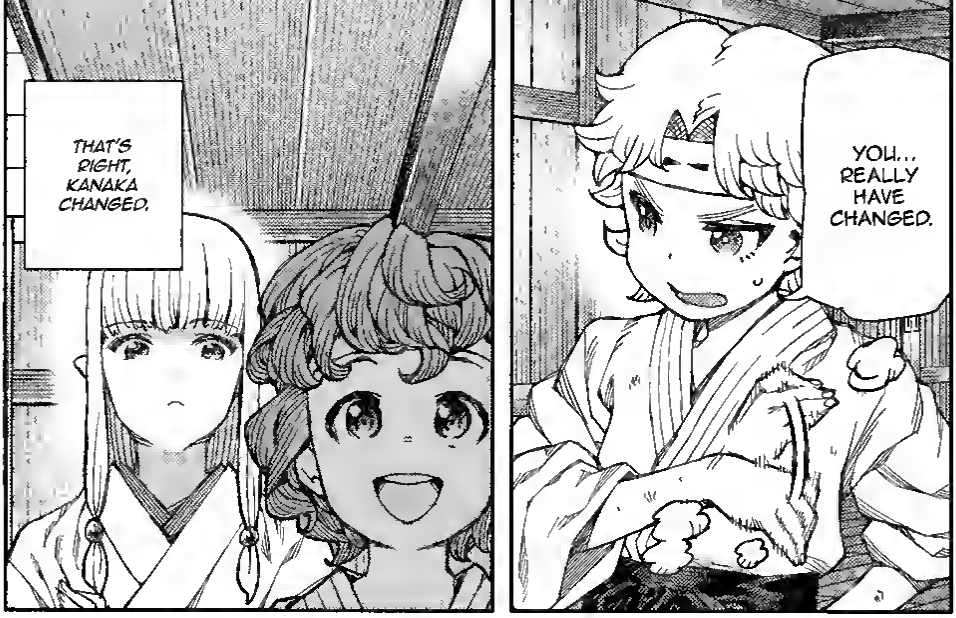

IT BEGAN CONSUMING ANIMALS IN THERE WHILE WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY.
FOLLOWING HER TO THE SCENE, IT WAS TRAPPED INSIDE THEIR BARRIER.

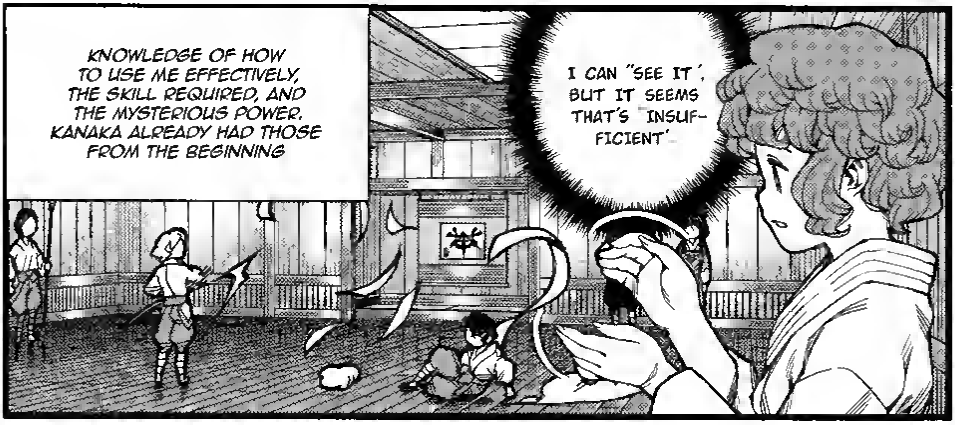

THOSE ANIMALS WERE PROBABLY CORRUPTED BY A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF CURSE... THEY WERE THE MINOR MONSTERS

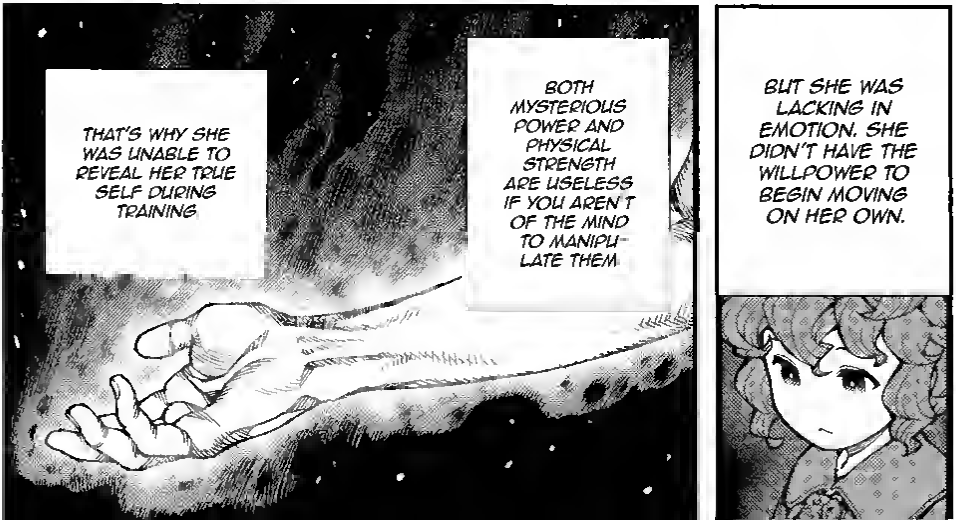
BY THEN, IT HAD DECIDED IT NO LONGER NEEDED A HUMAN HOST SO IT ATTACKED THE EXORCISM SQUAD
THE MORE IT ATE, THE STRONGER IT GOT IT MATURED IN NO TIME

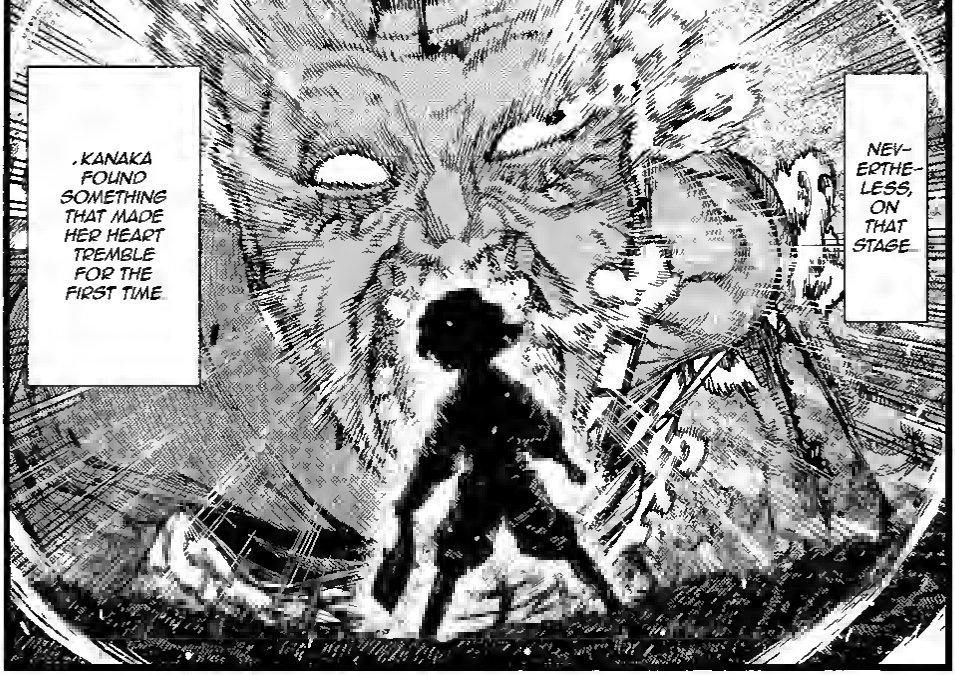

IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE KAZENBOU WAS SO FOCUSED ON HER.
THAT LEVEL OF SPIRITUAL POWER AND SKILL IS APPROPRIATE FOR A SEVENTH... NO, AN EIGHTH SEAL ADEPT.
WHAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND IS KANAKA.

YES, THAT'S PROBA-BLY..
WHAT COULD HAVE POSSI-BLY.
BUT, DURING TSUZURA TEMPLE'S TRAINING, SHE SHOWED NO SIGN OF THAT SKILL
SFX SLAM
AHAHAHA, ANOTHER ROUND, THEN?
I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!
UGG GH...
SATIS-FIED NOW?

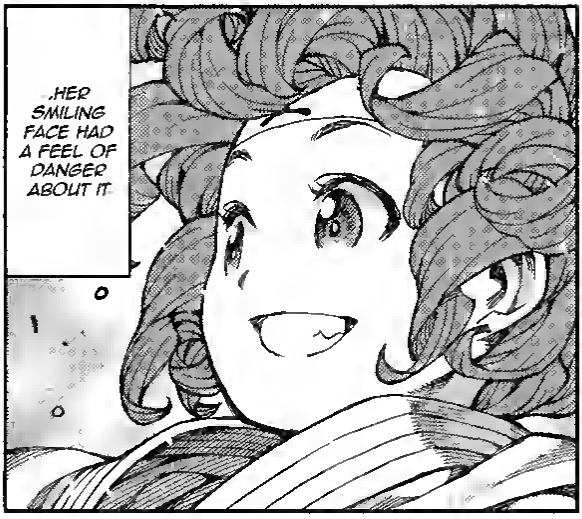

THAT'S RIGHT, KANAKA CHANGED.
YOU... REALLY HAVE CHANGED.

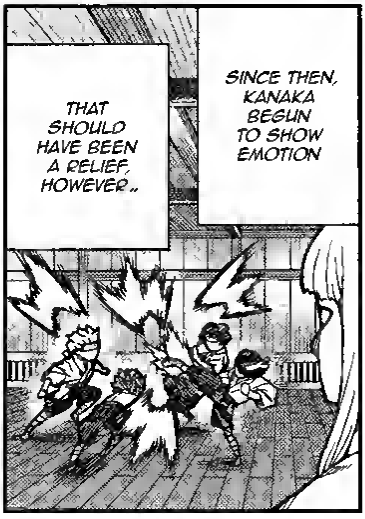

KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO USE ME EFFECTIVELY, THE SKILL REQUIRED, AND THE MYSTERIOUS POWER. KANAKA ALREADY HAD THOSE FROM THE BEGINNING
I CAN "SEE IT", BUT IT SEEMS THAT'S "INSUFFICIENT".


THAT'S WHY SHE WAS UNABLE TO REVEAL HER TRUE SELF DURING TRAINING.
BOTH MYSTERIOUS POWER AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH ARE USELESS IF YOU AREN'T OF THE MIND TO MANIPULATE THEM.
BUT SHE WAS LACKING IN EMOTION. SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO BEGIN MOVING ON HER OWN.



A LIFE-THREATENING BATTLE.





Chapter 75: Appointment to Kamioka 1

SFX SWOOSH
SFX SLAM
EVERY-ONE, GAIN DISTANCE WHILE PRO-TECTING THE FORMATION! WE'LL START OVER!
IT'S QUITE AGILE FOR SOMETHING SO BIG!
SFX SHWIPP

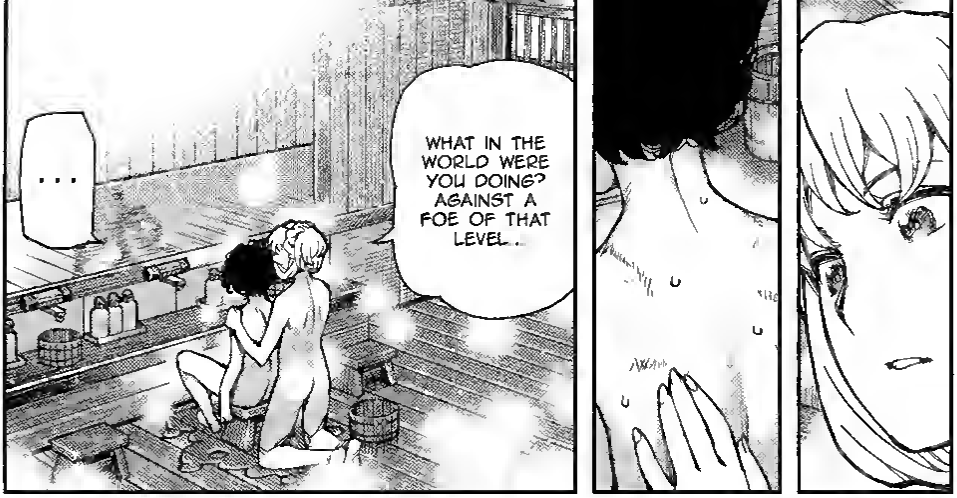
KANA-KA?!
!
TAP
SFX WHOOSH
POW
POW
POW
SFX TOUCH

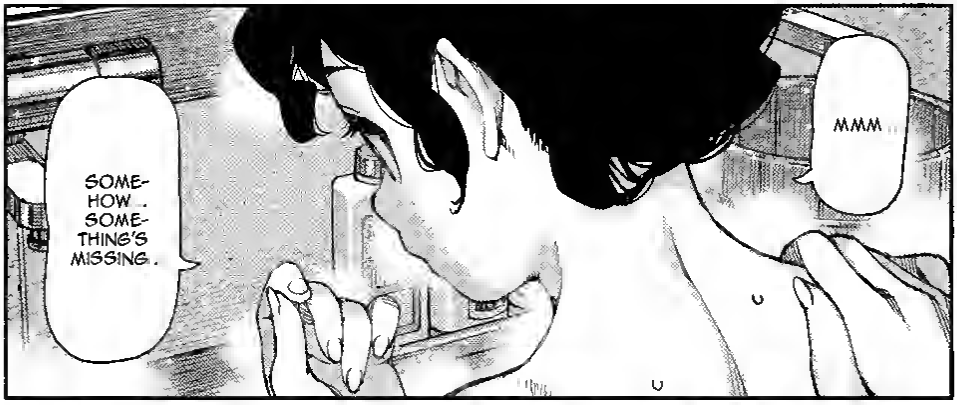
KABOOM

HOLD IT, YOU'RE ACTING ON YOUR OWN AUTHORITY AGAIN?!
YOU ARE AN EXORCIST! SHOW SOME SELF-AWARENESS..
SFX GRAB
THUD
THUD
SFX SHIVER

I JUST GOT A BIT FIRED UP!
AHAHA HAHAHA, SORRY, SOOOR-RYYY.
...
LET'S HURRY BACK AND TAKE A BAAATH!
THAT BEING SAID, THE ABERRA-TION HAS BEEN RE-SOLVED!

1P
SPLASH

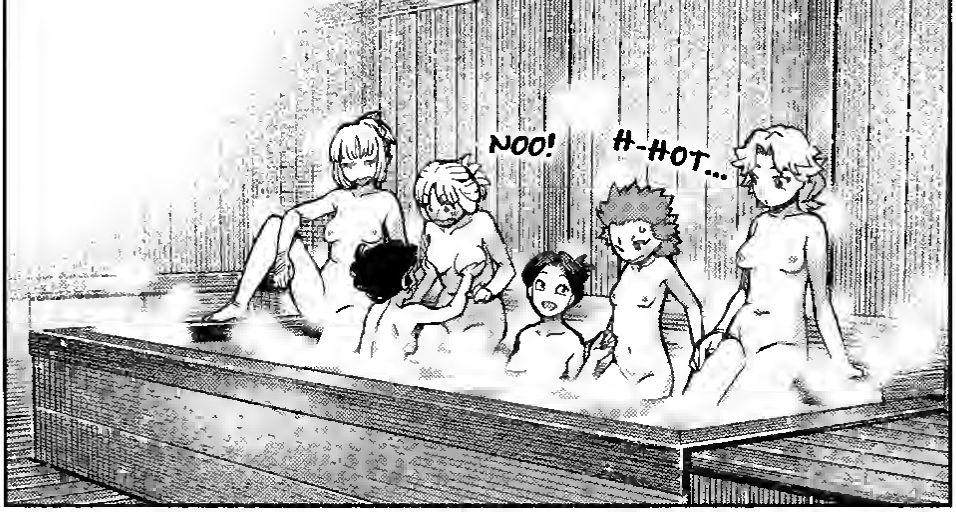

...
WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE YOU DOING? AGAINST A FOE OF THAT LEVEL..


MMM
SOME-HOW.. SOME-THING'S MISSING.

KANAKA... ABOUT WHAT'S MISSING
MMM...
SOME-THING'S MISS-ING.
SOME-THING THAT WILL SATISFY KANA-KA?
LATELY, THAT TEN-DENCY HAS BECOME ESPECIALLY STRONG.
KANAKA GOING ALL OUT IN THE FACE OF DANGER.

WHAAAA?!
WHAT'S MISSING IS SKINSHIP!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
EEK!
TOUCHING ME HERE AND THERE LIKE THAT, THAT'S NOT SK-!
AHH!
NNN!
P-P-PLEASE, KANAKA, NO MORE... NO MORE...!
AH! AH!
AHHH... NO, NO, ANY MORE THAN THAT...!
GH!

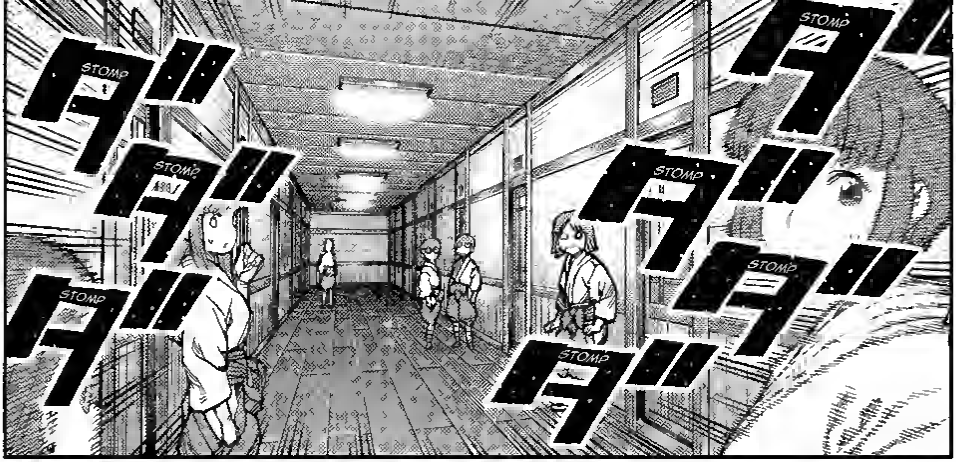
AHHH, ANOTHER TIRING DAY
SLIDE
カラ〃
SFX: TWITCH, TWITCH
SKIN-SHIP. ♡
—GEH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!


NOO!
H-HOT...

HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT IT? IT SEEMS A POST HAS OPENED UP
YEAH, AS A GOD OF THE LAND'S RECOGNIZED EXORCIST, RIGHT?

IF IT'S FIXED TO A CERTAIN REGION, WON'T IT JUST BE EXTERMINATING WEAK AMASOGI AND MINOR MONSTERS?
SOUNDS EASY.
IT SEEMS IT ISN'T, THOUGH
WHY NOT?

IT'S IN KAMIOKA, AS EXORCIST OF MISTRESS KUKURI.
AHH, THAT REGION WITH THE UNSTABLE CURSE!
WHERE I-KYU ABERRATIONS ARE COMMON!
SO, IT SOUNDS LIKE THE PERSON ASSIGNED TO IT RIGHT NOW IS A SEVENTH SEAL ADEPT
OHHH...
HUH?
KANAKA?


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

SFX SLAM!!

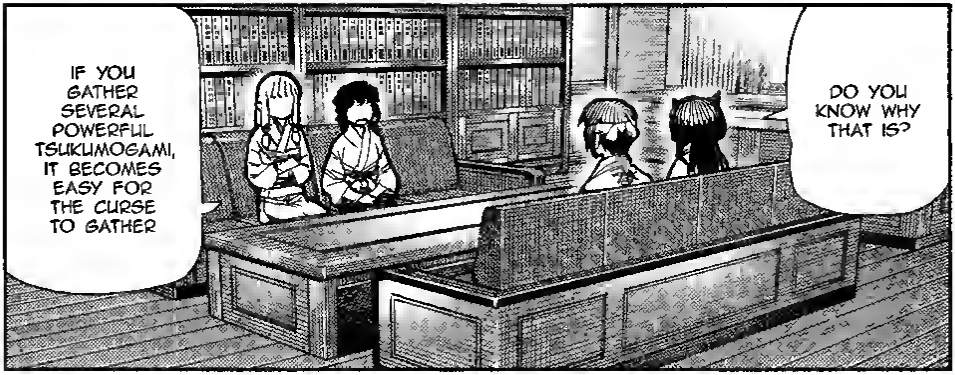
HEAD-MAS-TER!
バーン!!

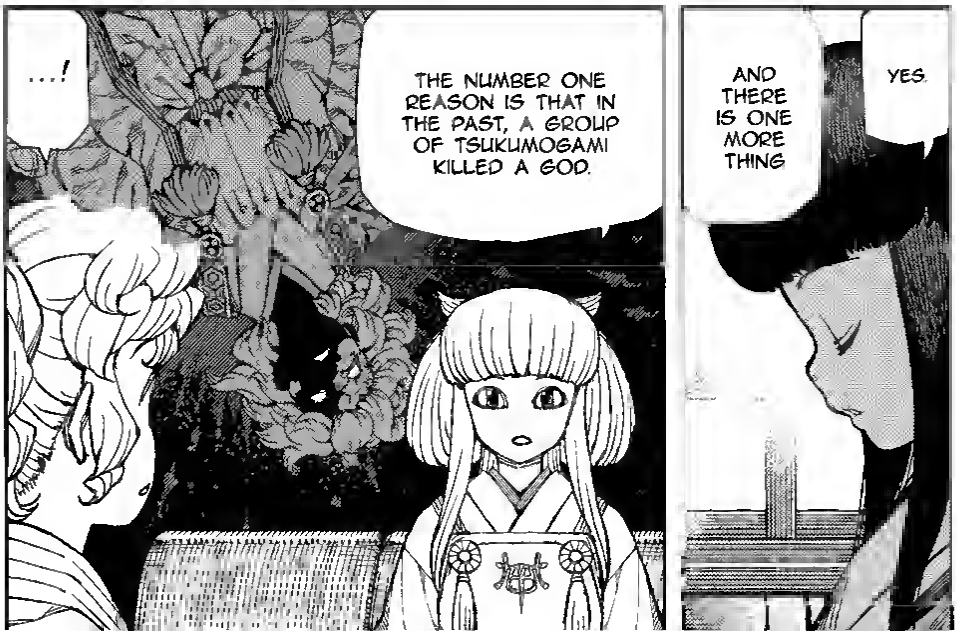
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

KANA-KA.
PLEASE MAKE ME THE EXOR-CIST OF KAMIOKA!

PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON FIRST
OH MY..
はらり!!
SFX: FLUTTER
きゅっ
SFX: TIGHTEN
NOW THEN

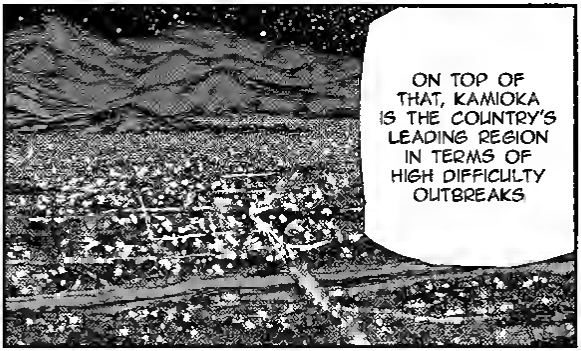
AND JUST ONE EXOR-CIST.
...THE GOVERNING GOD OF THE LAND EMPLOYS A FULL-TIME EXORCIST.
IN RE-GIONS WITH CURSE INSTA-BILITY...


IF YOU GATHER SEVERAL POWERFUL TSUKUMOGAMI, IT BECOMES EASY FOR THE CURSE TO GATHER
DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?


...!
THE NUMBER ONE REASON IS THAT IN THE PAST, A GROUP OF TSUKUMOGAMI KILLED A GOD.
AND THERE IS ONE MORE THING
YES.

...ASSIGNED TO A REGION, YOU'RE ALONE.. THE DIFFICULTY JUMPS UP
HERE AT TSUZURA TEMPLE, WE USE SEVERAL PEOPLE FOR EXORCISING ABERRATIONS, BUT..
POW

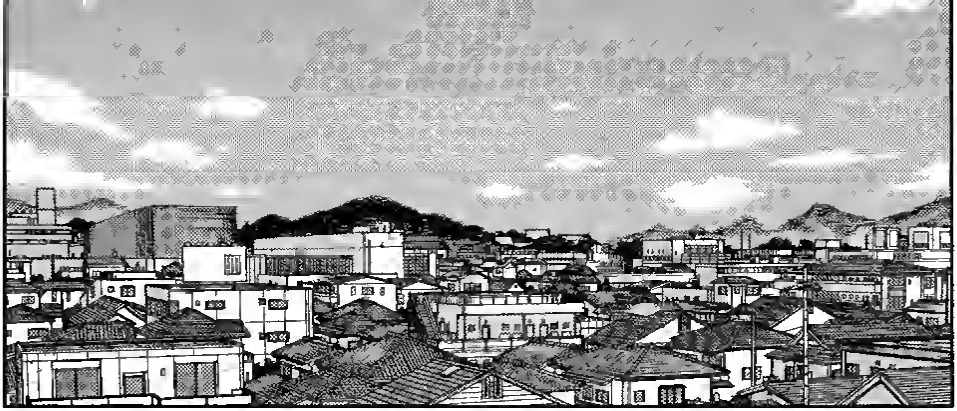
GOING IN WITH SHALLOW DETERMINATION OR ABILITY..

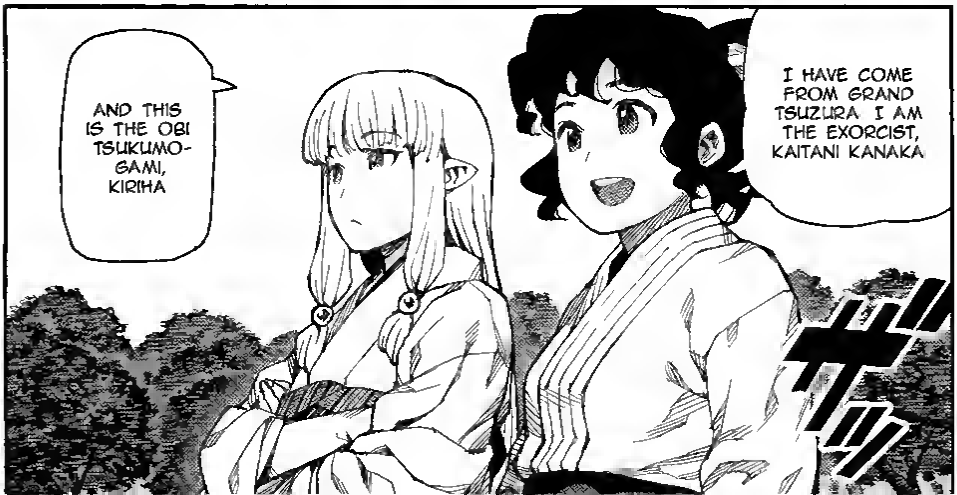

ON TOP OF THAT, KAMIOKA IS THE COUNTRY'S LEADING REGION IN TERMS OF HIGH DIFFICULTY OUTBREAKS

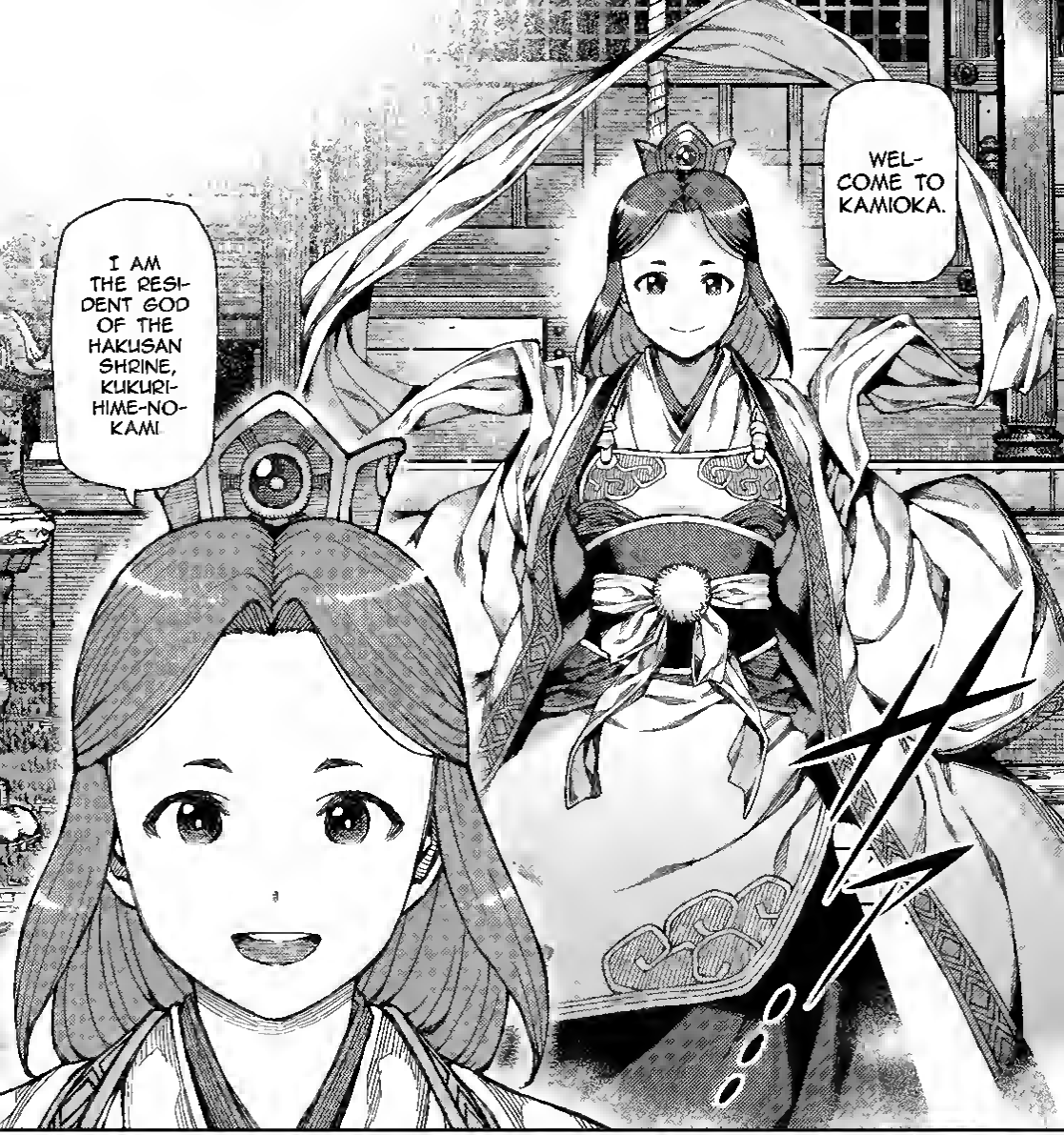
SFX HOOMPH

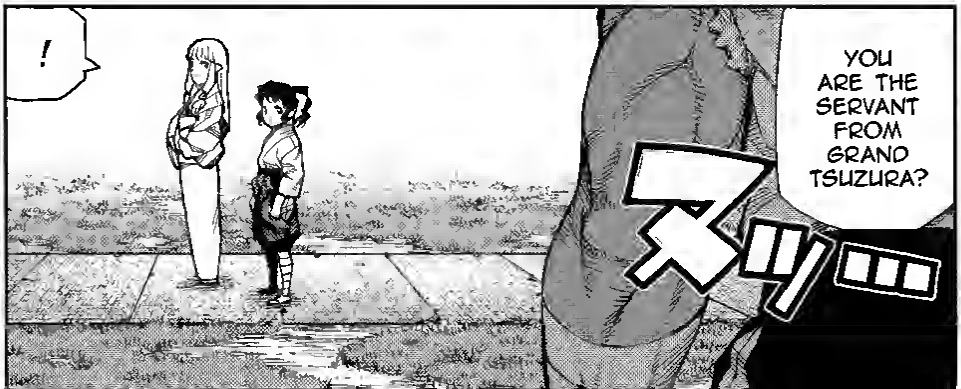
RATHER IT SEEMS THAT'S WHY YOU'RE INTERESTED

AND OF COURSE, YOU WERE ALWAYS A CANDIDATE
YOU ARE THE STRONGEST OF THE YOUNG EXORCISTS
SFX HUG
がば
HOO-RAY!!
IT'S FINE. I GRANT YOU PERMISSION TO GO TO KAMIOKA
EH?
BUT THERE IS ONE PROB-LEM..



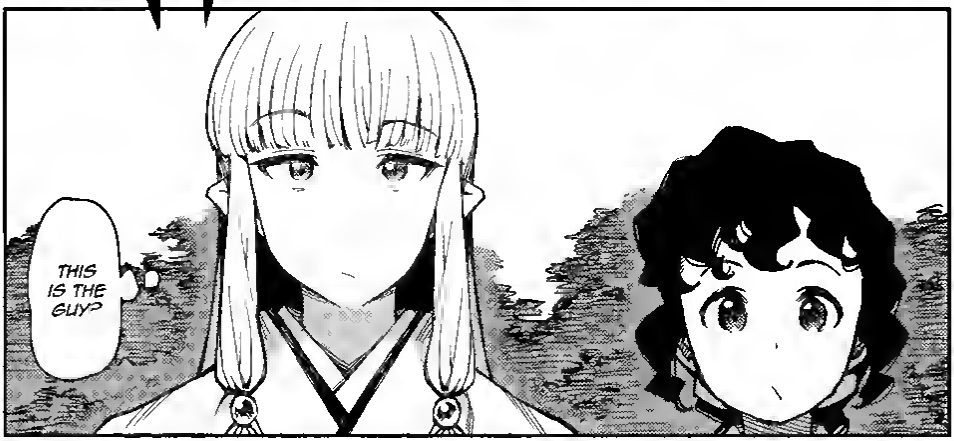

I HAVE COME FROM GRAND TSUZURA I AM THE EXORCIST, KAITANI KANAKA
AND THIS IS THE OBI TSUKUMO-GAMI, KIRIHA
SFX
STAND

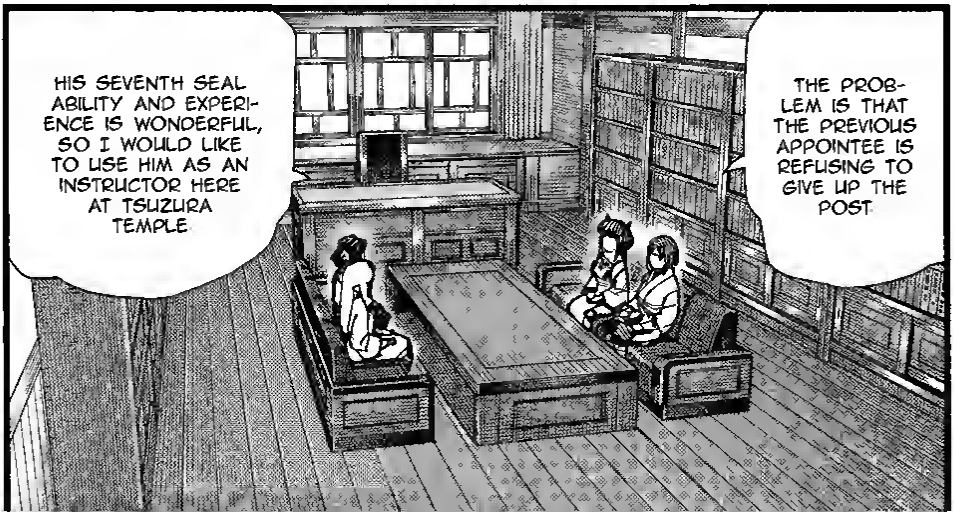

WEL-
COME TO
KAMIOKA.
I AM
THE RESI-
DENT GOD
OF THE
HAKUSAN
SHRINE,
KUKURI-
HIME-NO-
KAMI.
SFX: SERENE

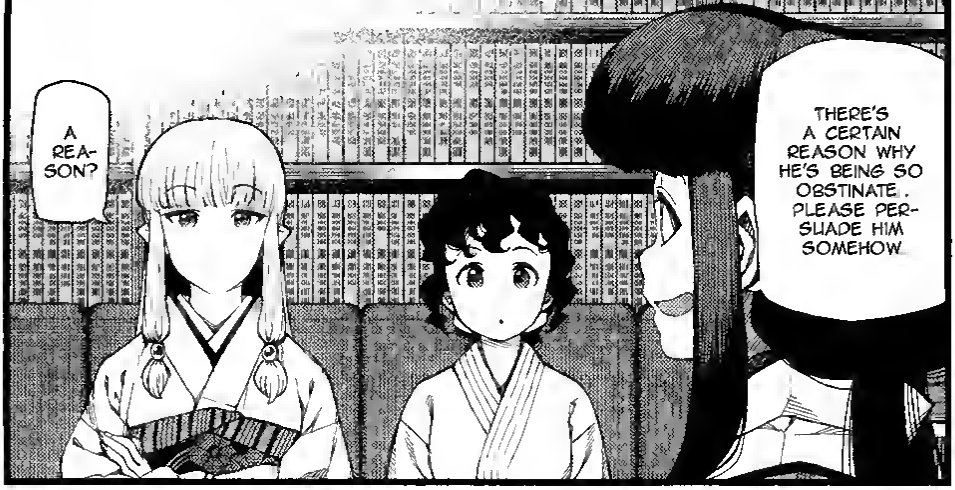

!
YOU
ARE THE
SERVANT
FROM
GRAND
TSUZURA?
SFX:
STEP

I AM MASTER KUKURI-HIME-NO-KAMI'S EXORCIST, SHISHIZAKI SHINKUROU!
GOOD WORK COMING ALL THE WAY HERE!
BAM

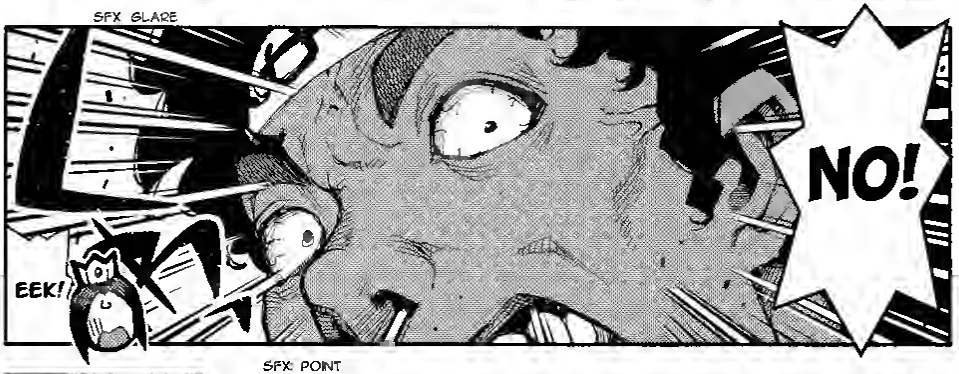
BUT, TURN BACK!
SFX BANG


THIS IS THE GUY?


HIS SEVENTH SEAL ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE IS WONDERFUL, SO I WOULD LIKE TO USE HIM AS AN INSTRUCTOR HERE AT TSUZURA TEMPLE.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE PREVIOUS APPOINTEE IS REFUSING TO GIVE UP THE POST.

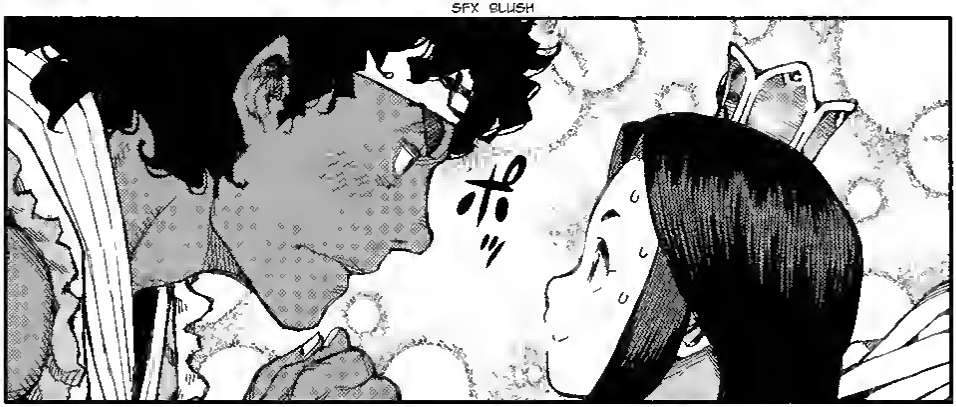

A REA-SON?
THERE'S A CERTAIN REASON WHY HE'S BEING SO OBSTINATE. PLEASE PER-SUADE HIM SOMEHOW.

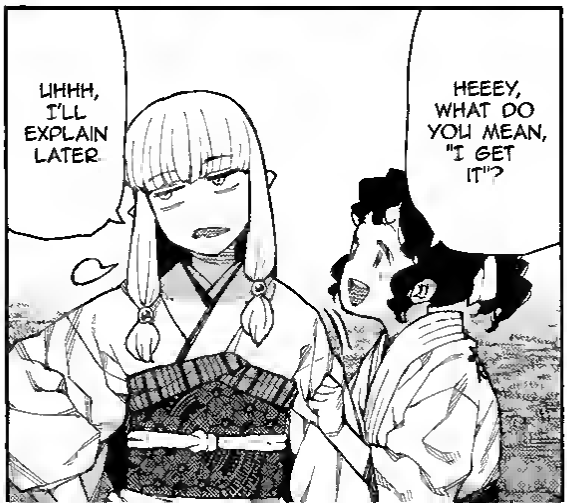
AND WHAT'S MORE, YOU WOULD BE GIVING THIS KANAKA GIRL A NEW EXPE-RIENCE..
SHINKUROU, BEING AN INSTRUCTOR IS A VERY IMPORTANT JOB, YOU KNOW?

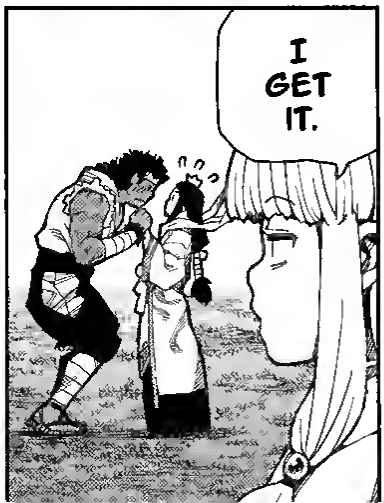

SFX GLARE
NO!
EEK!

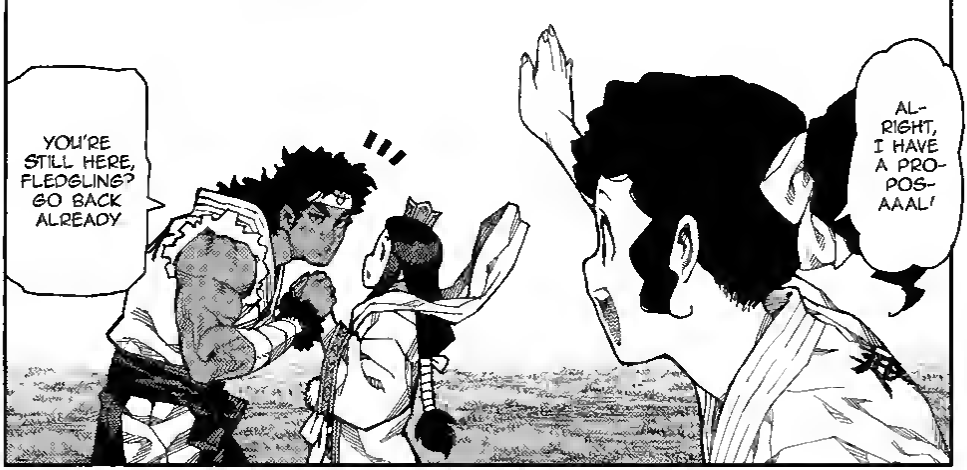
SFX: POINT
KAMI-OKA!
AND ABOVE ALL!
YOU SAID IT TWICE?
TO A FLEDG-LING LIKE THIS! TO A FLEDG-LING LIKE THIS!

YOUR PRECIOUS LIFE, MISTRESS KUKURI! I CAN'T ENTRUST IT TO HER!
CLENCH

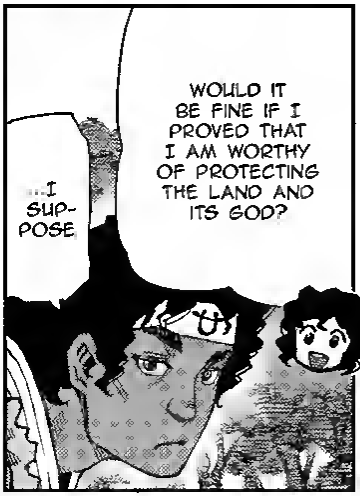

SFX BLUSH


HEEEY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "I GET IT"?
UHHH, I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

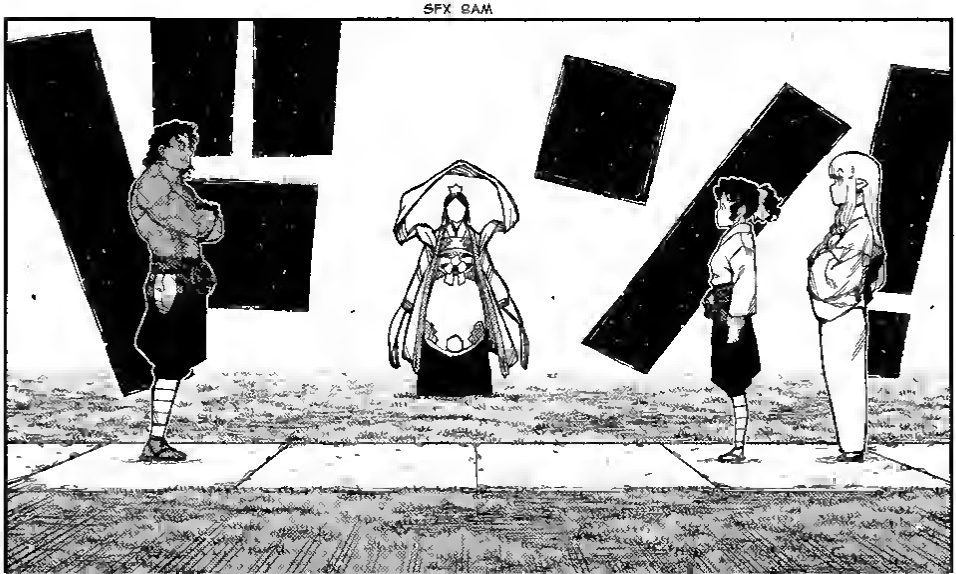

I GET IT.


YOU'RE STILL HERE, FLEDGLING? GO BACK ALREADY
AL-RIGHT, I HAVE A PRO-POS-AAAL!

THEN IT'S SIIIM-PLE!

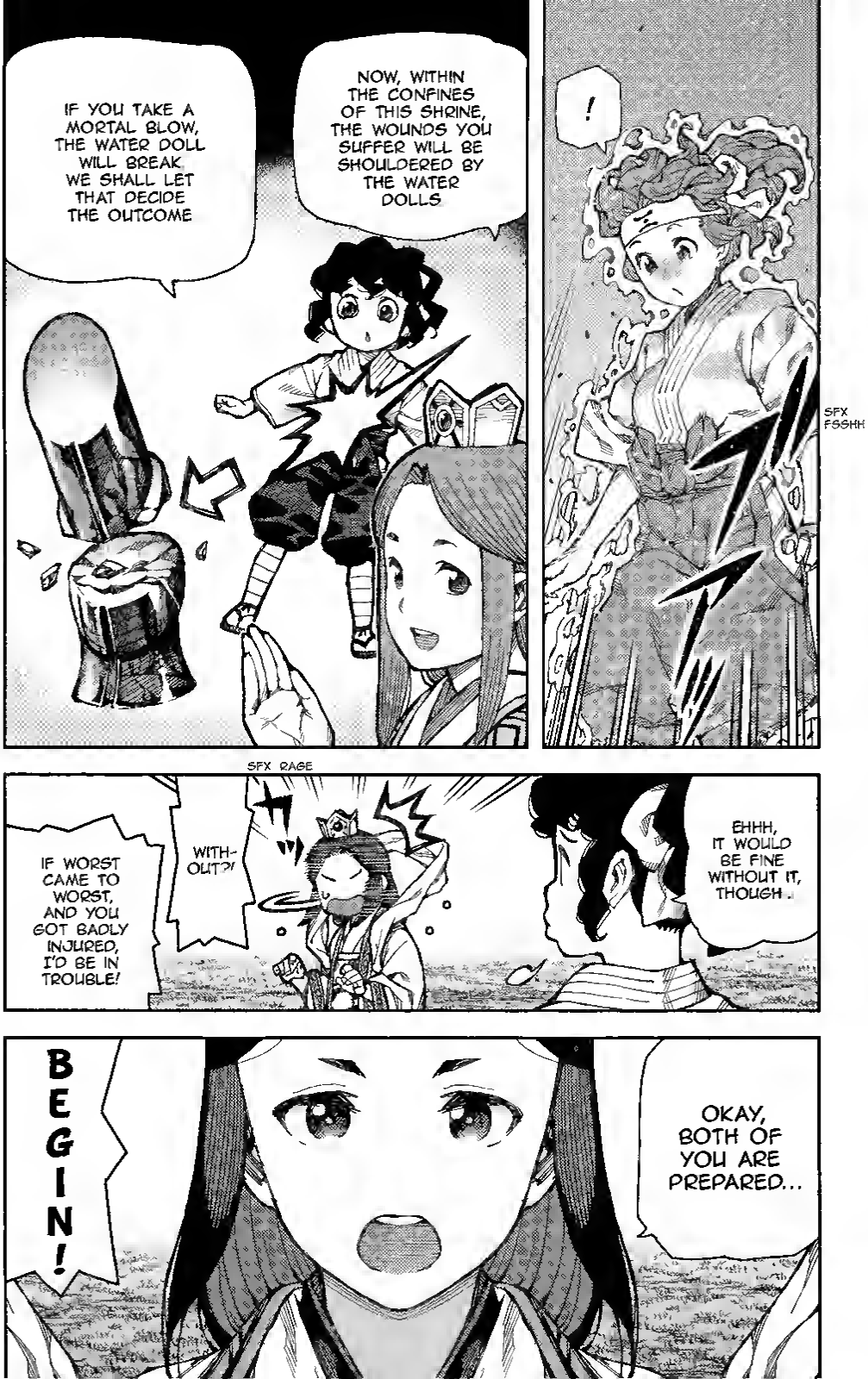

WOULD IT BE FINE IF I PROVED THAT I AM WORTHY OF PROTECTING THE LAND AND ITS GOD?
...I SUP-POSE

SFX BAM



SFX STAND
HAHAHA! GOOD IDEA, NOT BAD FOR A FLEDG-LING!
UM...
E-H... WAI...
THE WIN-NER WILL BE THIS LAND'S EXORCIST!

SFX PANIC
SO IT'S HOPELESS?!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE! FORTUNE FAVOURS THE FOOL!
FURTHERMORE, SHINKUROU IS DESERVING OF HIS REPUTATION!
M-M-MAKING A DEAL LIKE THIS ON YOUR OWN IS A PROBLEM!
?
WELL, LET US USE THESE WATER DOLLS.
...AHHH, I HAVE NO CHOICE
SFX DRIP
BOTH OF YOU, PUT A DROP OF YOUR BLOOD ON YOUR DOLL


NOW, WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS SHRINE, THE WOUNDS YOU SUFFER WILL BE SHOULDERED BY THE WATER DOLLS
IF YOU TAKE A MORTAL BLOW, THE WATER DOLL WILL BREAK. WE SHALL LET THAT DECIDE THE OUTCOME
!
SFX FSSHH
EHHH, IT WOULD BE FINE WITHOUT IT, THOUGH..
SFX RAGE
WITH-OUT?!
IF WORST CAME TO WORST, AND YOU GOT BADLY INJURED, I'D BE IN TROUBLE!
OKAY, BOTH OF YOU ARE PREPARED...
BEGIN!

SFX POOF

SFX TIGHTEN

SFX WHOOSH

TEXT SEAL

SFX FWIP

YOU CAN BOAST ABOUT HAVING FOUGHT ME WHEN YOU GET BACK TO TSUZURA TEMPLE!
THAT'S GOOD CONFI-DENCE FOR SOMEONE AROUND THIRD SEAL!

BLUE HEART HEL-MET!!!
SFX POOF
A HELMET TSUKUMO-GAMI!
SFX POOF
WATCH AND BE AMAZED, FLEDG-LING!
SFX PULL

SPIRIT
PLATE!
GRUDGE
ARMOR!!!

UNDER-
STOOD!
WE DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF HIS ABILITIES! BE CAREFUL, KANAKA!

SFX BURST

YOU DIDN'T UNDER-STAND AT ALLLLL!

HOW RECK-LESS!
HOW-EVER, THAT'S GOOD SPIRIT!!
REPLY IN KIND!!
KAR-MIC RET-RIBU-TION...
SFX SLIDE

SFX
WHOOSH

SFX
SWOOSH
SFX
WHIZ
A HELMET TSUKUMOGAMI USING ARROWS?!
POW
POW
POW
!
SFX
SLIDE
SFX
WHAP

SFX
SWOOSH
SFX
FWOOSH

FWOOOOSH
SFX SWISH
SFX CRACK
SFX FWIP FWIP

NOW A SWORD AND A SPEAR! WHAT IN THE...!
OKAY, IT'S OUR TURN NOW!
WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S NOT A REAL FIGHT IF YOU DO NOTHING BUT DODGE AND PARRY
SFX FWSSHH
SFX BURST
W-WAIT, KANAKA, BE CAREFUL!
SFX WHIRL

SFX KAPOW
HAMMER WEAVE!
OHHH!!!
SFX WRAP
SFX FSSHH
OBI THROW!!
SFX SMASH
WHA?

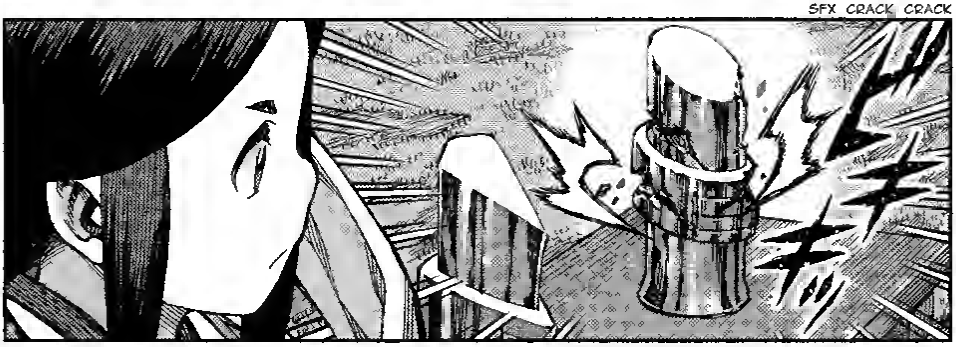
SFX
TIGHTEN
SPIRAL
WEAVE!
SFX
SLAAAM
NOT A
SCRATCH
ON IT!

THIS WILL SURPRISE YOU!
HMPH!!!
SFX WHIRL
SFX BOOM
WHAA AT?!
HAMMER WEAVE!
SFX BANG

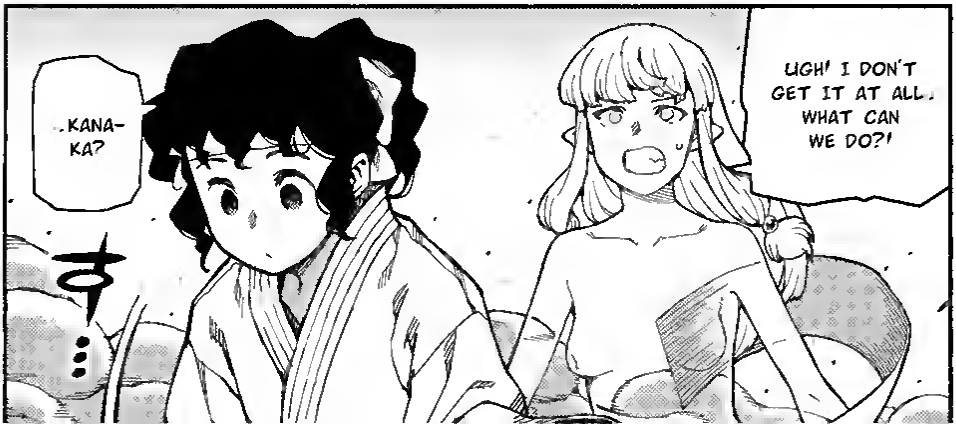
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
KAGUWA
THAT'S NOT ALL!!
SFX WHIRL
SPIRAL WEAVE!!
SFX WRAP
TIGHTEN

EN-
FORCED
ARM
WEAVE
!!
BOOM

SFX
FWOO


SFX CRACK CRACK

HAVE YOU FELT THE DIFFER-ENCE IN STRENGTH BETWEEN US?!
HA HA HA, HOW'S THAT?!


...KANA-KA?
UGH! I DON'T GET IT AT ALL. WHAT CAN WE DO?!
SFX
SLOWLY

?!
SFX
POOF
EH?
NO, I'M NOT.
HOW NO-BLE!
SO, YOU'RE ADMITTING DEFEAT!
?!!
I JUST THINK IT MIGHT BE MORE EN-JOYABLE UNARMED.

YOUR TSUKUMO-GAMI CAN RECREATE ATTACKS THAT HIT IT.
SO YOU WERE ABLE TO IMITATE A SWORD, A SPEAR, AND EVEN MY OBI
IT'S TRULY AMAZ-ING.
BUT YOU'RE RELYING TOO MUCH ON YOUR TSUKUMO-GAMI'S POWER
GGH...!
FINE.
I'LL BEAT THAT IMPUDENT MOUTH OF YOURS UNTIL IT CAN'T SPEAK!!

MAK-
ING
LIGHT
OF
MEEE
EEE!
YOU
WILL
RE-
GRET
THIII
IIS!!!
NOOO,
I'M FIGHT-
ING BARE-
HANDED
NOW,
WIELD
YOUR
TSUKU-
MOGAMI!
EVEN MORE
PROVOCATION!
IS SHE TRYING
TO MAKE HIM
USE HIS FULL
POWER.
THAT'S
ABSURD
WINNING
AGAINST AN
EXORCIST
USING A
TSUKUMO-
GAMI, BARE-
HANDED?

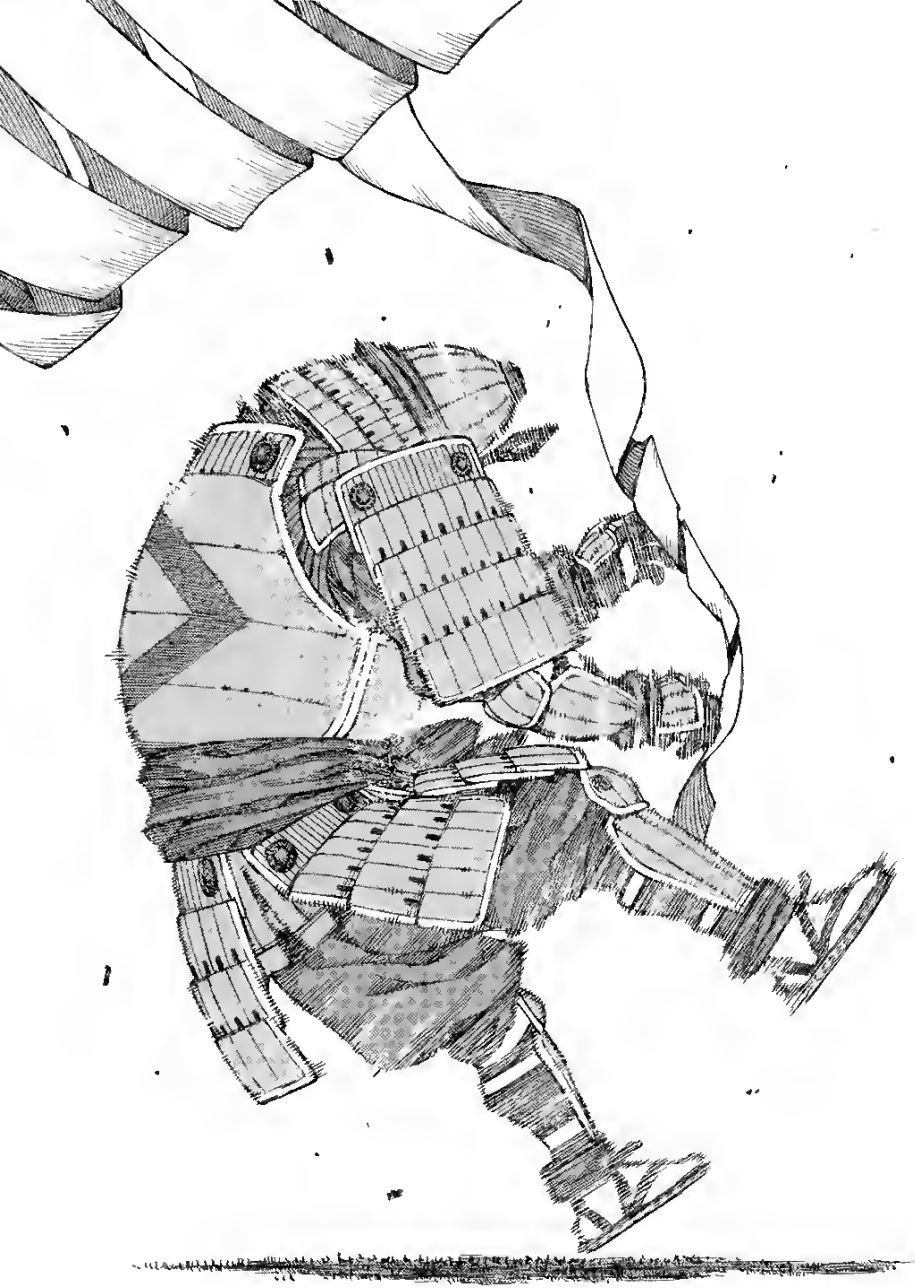
SFX
PULL
KACHIK
WHO
BAM
SFX
FWOOSH

SFX WHOOSH
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHE'S ENJOYING THE DANGER?!
GOOD GRIEF!
WOOSH
SFX SWISH

FOOM
REPLY IN KIND, HUNDRED DEMONS!!!

!!!
SFX
WHAM
SFX
POW X4
SFX
POOF

WHOOSH
GRRR!
SHE IS A LITTLE GIRL!
SHE IS UN-ARMED!!
THERE IS ABSO-LUTELY NO WAY I CAN LOSE TO HER!!!
SFX
SWOOSH

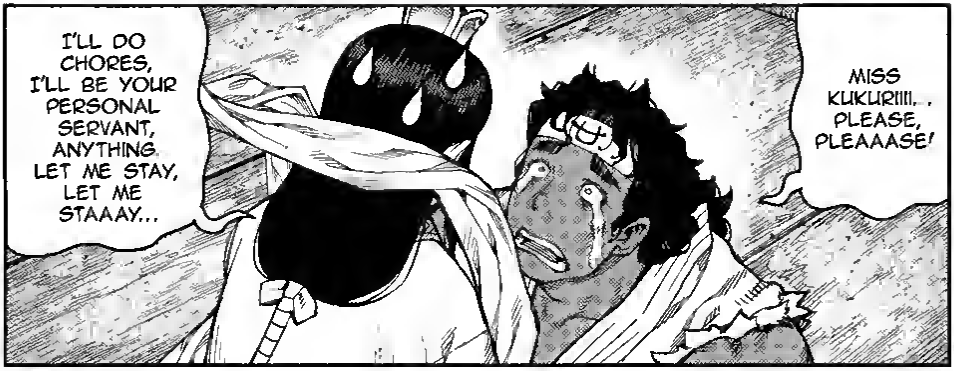


POW

IM— IMPOS- SIBLE...
WHAT IN THE HELL...
A JOINT IN MY ARMOR!
A VITAL SPOT BENEATH IT!
...A SPEAR HAND...?
THAT IS IT!
WHAT REFINED TECH- NIQUE!!
SHE PIERCED IT WITH A MOMENT OF UNERRING, FEARSOME MIGHT!!

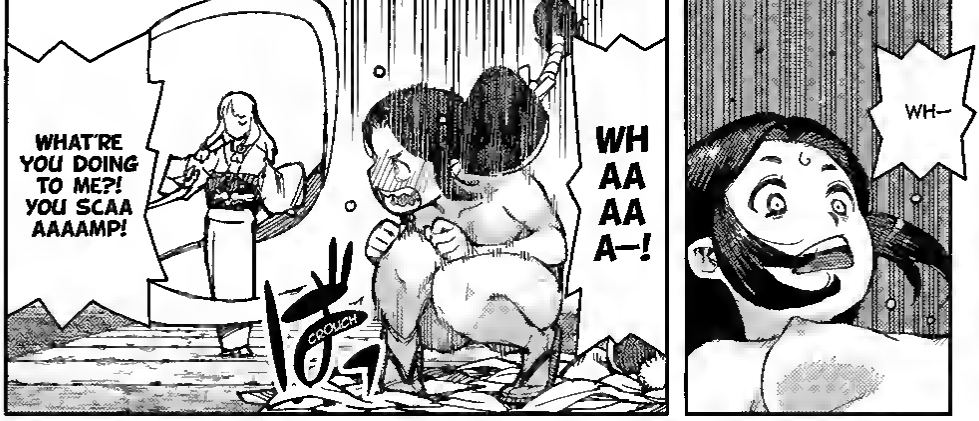
THUD
I LOSE...
THE BATTLE IS DECIDED!
SFX SPLASH
SFX CRACK

OHHHH
OH OHH

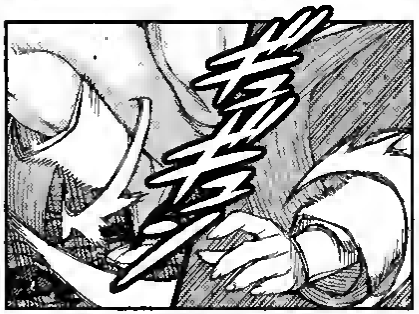

I'LL DO CHORES, I'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL SERVANT, ANYTHING. LET ME STAY, LET ME STAAAY...
MISS KUKURIIII. . PLEASE, PLEAAASE!

SHEESH.
QUIET, YOU!! A MERE OBI CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND MY DEVOTION!
SNAP
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA GROVEL? YOUR ESCORTS ARE ALREADY HERE

UMMM, MISS KUKURI?
Y-YES?
WOULD YOU MIND PUTTING YOURSELF OUT THERE TO HELP US SETTLE THIS?
OF COURSE, WHATEVER IT TAKES! HAPPY TO HELP!
WELL THEN...
SFX WHOOSH
SFX SLASH
TAP

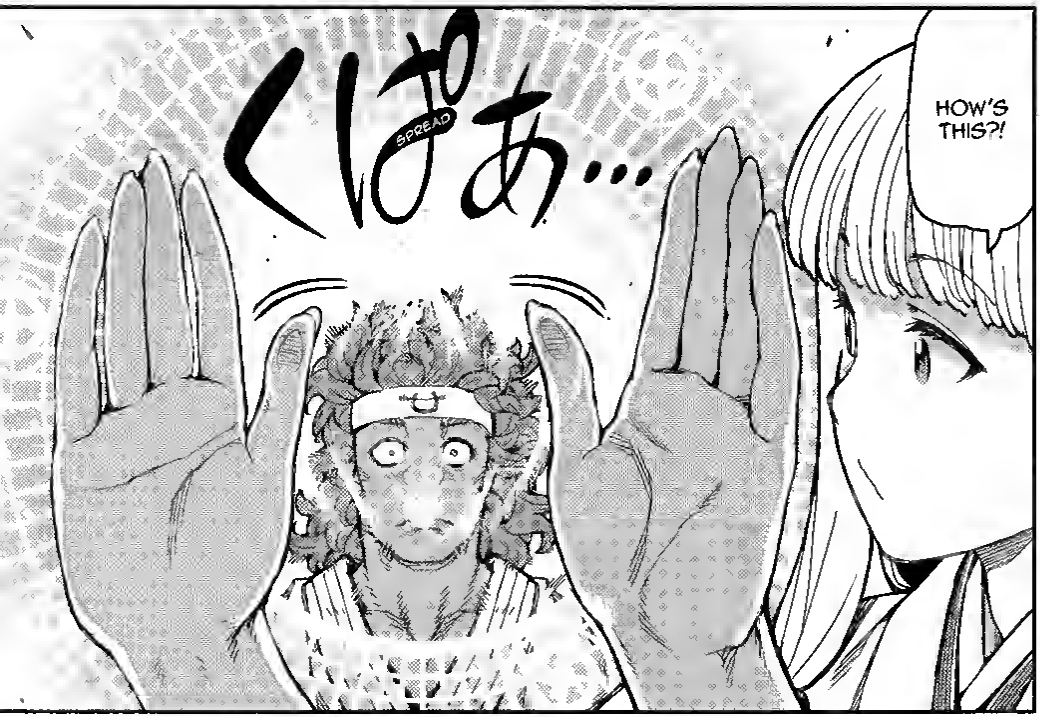


SFX SWOOSH



SFX WRAP WRAP

SFX: STRUGGLE SFX: REACH SFX: STRUGGLE



TEXT: NGGAAAHHH

EHE HE...
VERY BEAUTI— FUL...
AHAHA, OHOHO...
MISS KUKURI'S... MISS KUKURI'S... KUKURI'S KUKURI...

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOU MEANT THAT LITER-ALLY?!!
YOU AGREED TO PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE, DIDN'T YOU?!
SFX: RAGE
YOU DAMN RAG MON-STER!!
MY— MY PRE-CIOUS PLACE WAS...
WHAT'S BEEN "SET-TLED" ?!!
WHEW, THAT'S SETTLED IT

...IN THE END, THAT WASN'T ENOUGH...
NO~—!
LEG SPLIIIT!!

2000!
I like drawing leg splits.
Hamada Yoshikazu

Afterword

Greetings, Hamada Yoshikazu here.

Volume 15. A flashback. The time has come to properly explain everything I have scattered haphazardly here and there. In fact, I may fail to gather it all together or explain it. (insurance)

Well, anyway. It being a flashback, I need to consistently tie together all the various elements I have drawn until now. Having to work the parts of my brain that I don't ordinarily use at full power is tiring.

The artwork is very troublesome as well.

Ordinarily, it's easy to reuse previously drawn scenes and backgrounds. Because of that, using copy and paste to speed up my work schedule was simple.

Furthermore, after drawing a large and troublesome panel showing the situation, it's easy to carry on with small and simple panels of the characters conversing and so on. The amount of labor per page was small.

Now, as for flashbacks. There are fewer-than-normal relaxed scenes of characters bantering with each other. It's easy for large and troublesome situation panels to pile up one after the other! What's more, those situation drawings need lots of fresh art, so copy-paste won't help!

…for the above reasons, flashbacks slow down the artwork remarkably. I feel like I want to get through it quickly.

However!
If you've finished reading Volume 15 you have probably noticed.
That's right, the flashback didn't end in one volume!!
The truth is, I myself don't know anymore how long the flashback arc will continue.

Amidst all this, Kanaka being perverted rescued it. Unexpectedly for a flashback, there was a succession of fanservice scenes. I was saved.

Well then, let's meet again in Volume 16.

Hamada Yoshikazu

High
Action Comics
COMIC HIGH!'S BRAND

つぐもも　15

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